Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Mr. President, Sir, the Government have been able to present to us as usual a surplus budget. They have made provision only for the bare necessities of the Departments except of course to their latest progeny—the all-engrossing Health Department. They have not amply provided for the nation building departments and have shown a surplus of the paltry sum of Rs. 25,300. To arrive at that they have receipted several fabulous amounts, notable among them is under capital in the Land Revenue Department. The upset price per acre of the lands yet remain to be disposed of is Rs 50. Another sum of Rs. 50 will be required to bring an acre of such land under cultivation. The utmost that can at present be expected as rent from such an acre of land costing Rs. 100 is Rs 3 per annum. From this amount Rs. 2—8—0 the iniquitous impost, the legacy of that sympathetic Diwan Peishkar Diwan Bahadur Kasturi Ranga Ayyar should go to the Sirkar as land revenue. The balance of 8 as. is the interest the purchaser gets for his Rs. 100 per annum. If the Government had spent a moment's consideration in it they should have come to the conclusion that it would be next to impossible especially when money is very scarce in the country to realise any amount under that head.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government many a time before that the Village branch of the Revenue Department was overmanned, that there are Parvathiams who have very little work. The Government have not thought of either retrenchment or redistribution of work even though they had promised to consider it. The Economic Depression Loan was sanctioned months ago and a special officer and staff have been working since then. No loan has been issued till now. It is proposed to augment the staff. By the time the officers are ready to advance loans a good amount would have been spent for their upkeep. The applicants will be benefitted if speedy arrangements are made to issue the loan. Some who have applied have already lost their estates and the Finance Member said yesterday in his speech that the allotment was to avoid such a catastrophe. May I request the Government therefore to give the people the full benefit of this award?

The Agricultural Department has shown no signs of progress. The old story of keeping a few stud bulls for service in Trichur, of having a few graft trees of which some are bearing and some not, etc., is repeated ad nauseam. The Department cherishes the idea of having done their best if they are enabled to produce encomiums showered on them by birds of passage. There had been no administration report to which the visit of this big man or that big man has not made much off. The cocoanut garden

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is situated at a place where the hereditary occupation of the people is the planting and nurturing of the cocoanut trees. The income from the farm when considered with the expenditure on it does not warrent its continuance. If the Department cannot show to the people that with some little expense much can be procured why carry coals to Newcastle? The department have more than sixty acres under paddy cultivation. They purchase cattle food for Rs. 6,750. No list in the Administration report of the live stock and no mention of the proceeds from the sale of straw in the budget. The department cannot maintain its existence if it is not able to show that with little expense much can be got. We spent Rs. 9,000 and odd to realise almost the same amount from the avenues. There is scarcely any outturn for the amount invested. The people from the easternmost portion of the Chittur Taluk had been praying for a long time since for a veterinary hospital at Kozhinjampara. I hope that is also included in the jurisdiction of the touring veterinary Inspectors proposed to be appointed in the budget. It would be better if the Chittur Inspector is asked to camp for a couple of days at Kozhinjampara.

The Registrar of Village Panchayats has himself admitted that in the Panchayts cliques, counter cliques prejudices and influences play a large part and they are not matured enough to be entrusted with responsible duties. If the Registrar cannot stear clear of these cliques, etc., there is no necessity for such an appointment since the Health Department wants the Sanitation to be under it and since there is a proposal of a superviser of munificent pay to look to the works the only other duty of some of the Panchayats is to adjudge civil suits which the present Registrar is not qualified to supervise. These cliques, etc., are due to want of men of character in the Panchayats. It is to avoid such a situation that a few places are filled up by nomination. It is the Registrar's duty to see that good men able to carry out the work are nominated. It is due to this delegation of work to this subordinates that such undesirable situations arose.

There is wide discontent in the working of the Co-operative Department. The discontent is many years old. We are told that Mr. Devadhar is engaged in the enquiry of this department. We may hope to have a new era in sight for the department. The less said of the reigning deity of the Department the better. It is gladsome news that the Palace scheme has after all taken shape.

We have to spend Rs. 8,400 to extract timber worth Rs. 19,800. If the rateable portion of the establishment charges are deducted from the proceeds it will be reduced to very little. Is it worth the candle? So also of Tramway. There was a

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proposal to scrape the Tramway. It was then decided not to invest more money in machinery. The present budget shows that that policy has undergone a change.

A large provision is made under the fire engine, etc., to the Police Department. The parts of the Chittur fire engine are thrown haphazard on the verandah of the Police Station. The Commissioner had assured us on a previous occasion that the engine was in sound working order. Let it also be given a habitation. There was a proposal to have police lines connected with all the police stations. The police of Chittur are put to very great trouble for want of it. Is it not cruel to ask them to find their own places near the station that they may be ready at the station on the whistle call, especially in Chittur where no place is available and the places available are not suited to live in in that malarial tract? Why has the Government given up that proposal?

Have the Government or the Excise Commissioner known that the making of sugar from palmyra and cocoanut jaggery has been undertaken by the Travancore Government? Is there any one under the Government who has specialised in applied Chemistry? If not will the Government be pleased to get one qualified since it is said that good sugar can be made out of jaggery and since cocoanut has fallen in price there is no other way of making good use of the cocoanut tree.

In the matter of the medical inspection of schools the Government should either abolish it altogether or make it some way useful. It is not possible to have any good out of it unless it is entrusted to the local medical men. Otherwise since two doctors never agree the doctor who is asked to take up the treatment may not agree in the diagnose of the other. If the local man is given an honorarium and ordered to inspect he has no cause for grumbling and if he is asked to mention it in his diary to the head of the department I can't understand how the system can fail. The Headmasters should insist on the boy attending the hospital. The idea of giving it to the Health department is beset with grave evils.

For the Director thinks that since it is meant "more as a preventive measure than on the curative side" it should be transferred to him. He finds no difficulty for it for he says that it can be done "by transferring the officers and the necessary provision for their pay" to his departmental budget. How he will administer it you can deduce from what is spoken of about his doings and the Kudumi Chetty affair and the vaccination muddle of Sreenathy Kunhukutty Amma's children. Perhaps he will announce from his present vantage position that the

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diseases should stand back since the medical inspection has been transferred to his charge.

Where is the necessity to have a senior Assistant Surgeon in the Mental Hospital where the major portion of the work comprises in keeping accounts of dietary charges, etc., a work which could be done well by one of the status of a Revenue or Devaswam Inspector. The medical man has to attend to the wounds, diarrhoea, or fever as the case may be of 25 to 30 patients a day which can well be attended to by a hospital assistant. By posting a senior man a sum of Rs. 1,000 is wasted and he is made to rot there.

I would like to know who prepared the budget for the Ayurveda. Was it in consultation with the honorary physician? If not, how could the physician manage? If this leaping in the dark is not considering the department as the cinderella of the Government, what is it? While you are allotting in the allopathic department to keep abreast with the progress of medical science, should you not allot enough to carry on treatment in Ayurveda?

There is a reduction in the allotments under Public Works. It is the only department which will put a few pies into the pockets of the labouring classes. While thanking the Government for making permanent the Irrigation Department and the Irrigation staff which is especially useful to the Chittur Taluk it passes my comprehension to see why the Government have given up the works which are necessary in Chittur. The road dam across the Chittur river near Mattukadavu sanctioned by the Diwan, D. Dis. 7090/11 to be included in the budget does not find a place in it. It has been considered the first aid to the agriculturists especially in depression times to provide means of communication to construct farm roads to transport the produce. It is quite impossible for carts laden with paddy to cross a river. During monsoon times the river is not fordable. There are many villages on the other side of the river peopled by hundreds of people. They have to go for very many transactions, for work, etc., every day this side. If the river is full these people have to take a circuitous road with a difference of about 5 miles. Consider the position of a cooly who has to walk about 5 miles extra in quest of work to keep the soul and body together. Will he be fit for work that day? The Government have no funds to allot Rs. 5,000 for the work and make a beginning. The diversion of the Moolathura anicut which had been prayed for by the people was before the Government for a long time. The Government did spend a good sum and had the scheme surveyed and the report of the special Engineer was before the Government since the time of Sir Bhore. It is a

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remunerative work. It is a necessity. The Government have found funds to earmark for electricity which is a luxury. Can His Highness complacently sit on His throne looking at a portion of His Highness' subjects deprived of their necessaries while another portion provided with their luxuries? But I forget Chittur is far away and the cries of Chittur are very faint to be heard at the top of the hills. Sir, is this treatment right? Is this just?

It has been said that owing to the increase in working expenses of the line a sum of Rs. 54,900 also had to be provided for over the budgetted amount in the revised estimate for Railways. How was this increase? Was it due to the high wages, was it due to the high price of coal or fuel? This cannot be possible in these days of depression. Who allotted this as our share of the extra expenditure? Have the Government any machinery of its own to check the accounts of the company and know the real state of affairs? What extra facilities were afforded to the travelling public to compensate the extra expenditure? What gain the company give the Sirkar for this additional expenditure? Have the Government considered these questions and satisfied themselves to increase the expenditure? It is high time, Sir, that we had our own man to ascertain all these things.

At a time when people are groaning under dire depression the State funds for lavishing on gubernatorial visits on guests, etc. Far be it from me that I should suggest that His Highness' guests should not be treated cordially. But my only suggestion is that we should not view with others who are placed in a more fortunate position in the matter of spending. Only cut your coat according to the cloth.

Our expenses in the College building construction has increased by leaps and bounds. When asked why we are informed that the University Commission has proposed this or that and that we had no other go but to spend. Why does not that Commission insist likewise on the Trichur College? If the Commission is not reasonable why attach any value to their suggestion? It is a pitty that those who can gauge what the result of not accepting the suggestion would be, should so heartlessly throw away the money earned by the people by the sweat of their brow.

With regard to the harbour we are in the same position, as if not worse than, that of the last year. The Press Communique made us none the wiser. We have only to take this opportunity to tell the Government that we are for budging no inch from the position which the Government is reported to have taken and that on no consideration even at the risk of not having

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the fourth stage our jurisdiction and management over the Harbour area shall be surrendered. We must have our man in the management that we may not be at the beck and call of others and dole out money as we had to do this year in the matter of the Railway. It is reliably informed that His Highness our gracious Maharaja has most unequivocally announced that so long as His Highness is in the musnad no inch of the Harbour area will be parted with. May His Highness live long.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval.—Sir, the Holy Bible has said, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and we, in Cochin, have learned by dire experience, the truth of the saying. The economic depression, which, of course has not been peculiar to the Cochin State, has been increasing in intensity and acuteness and the people of Cochin, like people elsewhere, have been fondly hoping that affairs might improve. When it became clear that there was no amelioration of the existing conditions, the representatives of the people, both in this Council and outside this Council, requested Government to be pleased to resort to remedial measures which would give some sort of relief to the distressed people. We have been fed up with assurances. The performances of the Government have been entirely unsatisfactory; and in the last Council when I had occasion to discuss the budget I said that it was the rich man's budget, one ignoring the claims of those in distress. What do we find in the budget that is placed before us for our consideration? I may say, that the Finance Member is more or less like an astrologer. He is very certain of the past; he is doubtful of the present and very optimistic about the future. (*Laughter*). Both of them are garrulous and have an abiding faith in their infallibility. These are the features which appeared to me to stand out prominently in the budget. The Hon'ble Finance Member said that he was presenting to us a 'modest, carrying on' budget. I fancy it is neither a modest budget, nor a budget that would carry us an inch in our onward march. Readers of Sir Walter Scott will be familiar with the story of 'the wizard and the charm'. There was a wizard, who, with the aid of the charm, used to conjure up devils, who carried out his orders. In the absence of the wizard, his pupil took hold of the charm and shook it. The devils appeared and began to flog the pupil, in the result that his piteous cry attracted the Guru to the spot, to set matters right. The Guru used to hold the charm in his right hand and shake it, but the student ignorant of the Rule, held it in his left hand and misused the talisman. Now, in the pompous speech upon the budget, the Finance Member would quote the famous Asquithian phrase "wait and see". Asquith, the great philosopher and statesman that he was, asked the impertinent critics on his

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budget, to wait and see, not at a time, of dire economic depression but at a time when the financial position of Great Britain was very sound. But what does the Finance Member do? He takes the talisman in his left hand, and shakes it. Now, I pray, do not ask us to wait and see; any more, *now or never*, that is the maxim that we have to follow. Ours' is a case of absolute distress, hopeless dispondency; it is a case for immediate action. (*Hear, hear*). We cannot afford *to wait and see*, any longer. I fully sympathise with the Finance Member, in his, perhaps unnecessary attempt, to try to present a nominally surplus budget.

Some of the sources of revenue available last year are not now available. The interest on the investment for Reclamation which he ought to have received, if the fourth stage of the Harbour had fructified, which amounts to 2 lakhs and odd is not available for next year. It has become necessary to indent for a lakh of rupees by the sale of Sirkar lands. Of course, such sales used to be conducted occasionally. It has also become necessary to expect an increase from the Excise Revenue upon tobacco and toddy. I believe that that is an anticipation that is most likely to be falsified. And then small increases are expected from other sources which are uncertain. With these drawbacks, he had to present a surplus budget. I have often said in this House that a surplus budget is not always a *sine qua non* of good administration. There may be times when Government may have to present deficit budgets. This budget does not give us any assurance, any hope of better conditions in the next year. I congratulate the Finance Member on the lucid exposition of his figures, although, I fancy, that his speech is out of all proportion to his requirements. It could have been more effectively cut down into a pamphlet of 12 pages, deprived of its bluster, its embellishments and its repetitions. We are however asked to have a little more imagination. We are asked to be a little more patient. Is it any good giving medicine to one, acutely ill, during the last moments of his life? We, in this House want Government to understand the situation. We do not want a rich man's budget to be presented here. We could afford to wait for luxurious schemes. We ask Government in the name of the people, in the name of the 60 to 70 per cent of our distressed brethren in the State, 'Give us enough to feed ourselves, to clothe ourselves'. Please do something now instead of promising to do much hereafter, so that the people might live, and not perish. It is not enough if the rich men in the State flourish. Allow the others too enough to sustain life. And what is there in this budget in that direction? I find nothing. It is, with a heavy heart, that I have to discharge my

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duty. I feel that I am in the yellow leaf of age and should look at things with circumspection. This budget evinces the optimism and buoyancy of youth. I believe all these expectations are problematical. There are, a few redeeming traits in this budget and I congratulate Government upon what little is endeavoured to be done. Now, what has to be particularly noticed is the absence of a settled wide laid out financial policy for the State. That has been a great need for our State and an attempt—although a meagre attempt—was made in that direction when the Special Finance Committee submitted its report. But the transformations that this Special Finance Committee's report has undergone at the hands of Government have taken away the very little good that it would have achieved. Now, as it is, what do we find? Like patch work repairs on a dilapidated building, small redeeming features are found here and there in the budget.

Then with regard to the items of expenditure in connection with His Highness the Maharaja's tour and the visit of their Excellencies, I am glad to say that the people in general, consider them as omens for good in future; it required the visit of the Excellencies to enable Government to see ahead, and prompt His Highness to contribute an amount of 3 lakhs of rupees towards rural uplift and improvement of our hospitals. But Government never did anything of the sort, till then in spite of our surplus budgets, in spite of our accumulated income. So that the advent of Their Excellencies has been indeed very good for the State. Similarly in ragard to the remission of 18¾ per cent in land revenue. What is originally proposed to be reduced was 12½ per cent. The visit of His Highness all over India enabled the Maharaja to realise what was being done probably elsewhere and to induce Government to give us 18¾ per cent remission. I am not sorry for this expenditure. It is a matter of great satisfaction that that lover of the Indian States, His Excellency Lord Willingdon, came amidst us to understand Cochin and its conditions himself. I am again delighted to see the increment in the Palace allotment. I have been in this Council invariably pleading in this matter for the Princes. The allotment for the Palace is, comparatively speaking very meagre here. Our Princes have been leading a life of plain living and high thinking—simplicity itself.

I am also delighted to see that trouble in connection with the Valans of Thoosam has been more or less satisfactorily settled.

Other features deserving appreciation in Budget are:—

(1) the establishment of the Irrigation Department;

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(2) the idea of sending officers for special training in the various departments;
(3) the improvement of the public health in the State by means of this department;
(4) the slight increase in the pay of the typists; and
(5) the slight reduction in the salt duty.

The year 1109 has been a year during which repressive laws have been unnecessarily placed on our Statute Book, during which two lakhs and odd rupees have been collected in the shape of income-tax and utilised for purposes other than the amelioration of the masses. I raised my protest even when the Income-tax Bill was introduced here, that the people of this country have been held beyond endurance. There was absolutely no necessity for the income-tax being tried now, because the men who has to pay is practically the land-owner and the man who pays other kinds of taxes here. Nobody can object to the Income-tax Bill on principle. What did you do with the two lakhs collected? You have done absolutely nothing to relieve the economic distress in the country. Therefore, I say that this amount should not have been collected at all.

Similarly we hope to get Rs.. 50,000 by duty on matches. Legislation in this behalf is inevitable. But it is a hard and oppressive levy looked at from the stand-point of the suffering citizen—the taxpayer. A liberal-minded policy is unfortunately absent in our financial schemes. It is an irony of fate that with a Maharaja, who is benevolence personified, with a Diwan, who as the President of this Council, has almost reached my ideal, with a Diwan who is sympathetic to the poor and absolutely fair-minded, the people of the country are still in the same acute plight as before. Cochin seems to be labouring under a curse. It is for us to see if things could not be improved.

I have only a few more observations to make. I have no time to go into the details of the programmes of the various departments. I shall only make a few general remarks on this occasion.

The Finance Member's speech shows that the State has spent 156 laks of rupees already on the Harbour and the Railway, that the limit of taxation has been reached and that we have to depend upon the income from the Harbour and the Railway so that important schemes of administration may be carried out hereafter. I fear we have been doing things in the wrong way. The Special Finance Committee's Report (vide paragraph 16, page 6,) says. "In regard to this Railway Conversion Scheme, we would venture to suggest that it be postponed till the Harbour Work is completed. If the Harobur Improvement Scheme does not prove the success that it is

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confidently anticipated to be, the conversion is bound to be a financial failure, which the State can ill-afford to risk. If,on the other hand, it turns out to be a success, the work of conversion can then be pushed through as rapidly as possible without any mis-givings. A year or two's delay will not in the long run seriously affect the situation to any considerable extent". We have acted directly against the spirit of this suggestion. I depend upon the Special Finance Committee's Report as a vade mecum for our political guidance. Now what is the situation? The Finance Member says that we have spent 150 and odd lakhs of rupees and that we expect good returns. Suppose we don't get good returns, what then?

This preliminary budget and the Finance Member's speech looks like an annual report of an ill-managed orphanage. Persons responsible for the management say "There was a very large collection of money in the year which has been spent away for other purposes; there is no money to look after the orphans entrusted to our charge. But we hope for better luck next year". That is the situation here. When we request Government to do something for the good of the poor people the invariable answer comes from the Government such "We have no funds". Have you done anything to relieve the poor men? (*Hear, hear*). The answer is 'no funds!' A little bit of plain speaking seems to be necessary. I have no axe to grind. I speak with the best of my knowledge and in the best interests of the people. There has been a deplorable deterioration in the Huzur Secretariat and in the Land Revenue Department where there has been lethargy of the worst kind. The five lakhs of rupees promised to be lent in landed security could not be distributed. Under some protext or other the thing is put off. We await the report of the Economic Depression Committee, we await the report of Economic Survey Committee. When all these things come it will be too late. If at all the Government is prepared to do anything do it now or never do it at all. It is no matter for indefinite postponement and waiting. To pass on to another subject representation in service on a communal basis has had its unpleasant repurcussions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—That is questionable.

Mr. A. Sankara Poduval:— In regard to the little self-Government that we enjoy let me draw attention to the fact the Panchayat elections and Municipal Elections are being very seriously affected by official interference. I find in the report of the first Council, Vo. 4, part 6, Government laying down the wholesome injunction (Page 369). I shall read it for the information of the House.

"The right of Government servants to vote at all elections in their private capacity when they are qualified to do so is undoubted,but as it is not

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possible always to dissociate their private from the official capacity in other directions and as their interference with the freedom of elections is likely to impair the efficiency of proper organisations, it is hereby ordered that though Government Officials as such are not prohibited from exercising their power of vote, if they are eligible to do so, they are strictly prohibited from influencing elections in any other way not only to the Legislative Council but also to other institutions such as Municipalities and Panchayats where the right of election has been given by Government to the Public. Heads of Departments will issue instructions to their subordinates accordingly".

This rule, I am sorry to say, has been more honoured in its breach than in its observance. I have no time to go into details. But I pray that the Government may be pleased to see that this rule is enforced.

To enable the State to embark upon a progressive administration a continuity of policy in the working of which the people are taken into greater confidence is absolutely essential. The mentality exhibited on behalf of Government, more particularly through the Hon'ble Secretary to the Diwan, has not been very encouraging. We want Government to see that the administration is carried on in the interests of the people that the representatives of the people have fully realised that they have got solemn responsibilities and that the motions passed by the House are to be given due weight. Continuity of policy is absent here, and I therefore, strongly urge the formation of an Advisory Council composed of the Diwan and two vertibrate non-official Members. (*Hear, hear*). We want the Government to show greater consideration to this House, invest this House with greater powers and see that the administration is carried on not according to the dilapidated unworkable methods but with the advice and support of the citizens.

I will conclude with a few words in appreciation of the very good work done by the two Departments newly opened—the Panchayat and the Department of the Public Health.

Infantile mortality has been very heavy here and the suggestions made by the Director of Public Health deserve serious consideration. I would in this connection urge upon the Government the advisability of taking him in as a member of this Council. The Department is a very important and all embracing one and he should certainly have a seat in this Council. I would also urge that this department must have a controlling authority over Municipalities and Panchayats. I may here paranthetically remark that the recent decision of the Chief Court in the Vadakkancheri Market case, is likely to deprive the department of much of the revenue which it used to get as license fees from the so-called private markets. I believe, legislation in that behalf may be necessary.

Now, in regard to the Panchayats. If all that is contained in the Departmental report be true—I say so because I have

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heard different versions, about it, but I believe it is substantially correct—the Panchayat Department has been functioning very efficiently. In addition to the budgetted items, I find that out of the tender deductions, 169 emergent items of work were carried on with the sanction of the Government. I have my own doubts about the legality of the sanction accorded by Government dependently of the Council. Besides the usual routine, we find that the activities of the Panchayat Department have been vide and varied ranging between rock-blasting, and the transportation of monkeys from Pazhayannur at a cost of Rs. 200 and odd (*laughter*). The Head of the Department has been very active. His is a record of very good work done. According to him it was a jointly family affair. Complete harmony prevailed except in regard to a few erring members. The average attendance at meetings was very good. The Panchayat Registrar seems to have been on circuit for the major portion of the year 278 days in all. I think it would be very well if he be given somebody to assist him in supervision work. One or two more Inspectors may be usefully appointed in his Department. Government would be pleased to do away with nominations to the Panchayat. It is very desirable that all the Members should be elected by the people. (*No. No*) It is my own suggestion. Take it for what it is worth.

I appreciate the appointment of a supervisor of Maramath in this Department. That is a matter about which I drew particular attention in last year's budget speech.

I am glad to see that eight new courts are going to be established. In that connection I want to emphasise one fact. The Regulation provides for the inspection of the Panchayat Courts by the Munsiffs. Now there are already in existence 26 courts and 8 more are going to be added. It would be a very good thing if the Munsiffs could be induced to inspect these Panchayats locally. They would be able to see the work done by the Panchayat Courts and to give instructions for guidence then and there. Although they are entitled to T. A. I think a little more temptation may be offered to them by giving Rs. 10 for each inspection. It would not cost the Government much, but it would considerably enhance the utility of the Panchayat courts and their efficiency.

Lastly, in regard to the contracts of this Department I suggested to the Government that the system of accepting contracts for works to be done in the Panchayats may be uniformly adhered to except in very special and emergent cases. The Panchayat should be given a discretion. As it is we find that there is an understanding that they are allowed to take up contracts up to Rs. 100 and the rest is managed by the Panchayat

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Superintendent. I would have it that the whole thing may be done by the Panchayats themselves subject to the supervision of the Panchayat Superintendent and the Diwan. My time is up. There is plenty of hope held out in the Finance Member's speech and I pray that providence might be merciful to us and that in spite of an erring administration Cochin and its people might prosper.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I request the Hon'ble President would be graciously pleased to allow me to deliver my speech, sitting.

President.—Yes.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Sir, I shall content myself by leaving to my young friends a detailed review of the Budget and the general features of the administration of the State. There is no denying it that we are being drawn more and more into questions of world importance. Yesterday we had the reading of the Tea Cultivation Restriction Bill. We are joining British India in the joint levy of a duty on matches and we have also taken legislation on rubber. On this last question of rubber legislation and rubber restriction it is my duty as the Planters' Member to say a few words.

The rubber restriction scheme is no doubt an international scheme, and it may seem presumptuous for small Cochin to put up a fight against the vast and powerful interests concerned in this 'big affair'. But I maintain that, vitally affected as we are, by this scheme, we have a right to raise our voice, in emphatic protest against the iniquitous way in which our interests have been over-looked and over-ridden in this hard bargain. Our interests in this matter are not at all inconsiderable. The total area under rubber in Cochin comes to 11,640 acres. Let us also remember that every pound of rubber exported means so much tangible relief to the depression that still holds the country in its inexorable grip.

I do not like to lay the blame particularly on any of the participants of this scheme. But all the same there is the palpable *fact* that we have had the worst of it in this international bargain.

The crux of the whole scheme is contained in the basic export quotas of rubber, fixed for the various countries participating in it. These quotas are said to be based on the export figures of the various contracting countries, for the year 1929, allowance being made for the normal increase in subsequent years in their crop production. Even a cursory glance at these figures would convince any one how grossly we have been deprived—not to say defrauded—of our legitimate share of rubber production for the restriction period 1934—38. Here are a few figures,

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Countries.	*Export figures for 1929.*	*Quota for 1934.*	*Increase.*
India	6850 tons.	6850 tons.	Nil.
Siam	5,100 do	15,000 do	Three times.
N. Borneo	7,400 do	12,000 do	Nearly double.
Sarawak	11,300 do	24,000 do	More than double.
Indo-China	10,100 do	30,000 do	Three times.

From these figures it is evident that while other countries have been awarded quotas amounting to twice and thrice as their export figures for 1929, poor India has been pegged down to her bare original, but more, the 1,700 tons exported from Alleppey in 1929 have been left out of the count. That indeed is a sheer injustice done to India, and it is the same story for the subsequent years 1935-38.

I do not want to take the House into the details of the calculations or manipulations by which the above quotas were arrived at. Suffice it to say that taking into consideration the total acreage of Rubber in South India, and the large area which come into the yielding stage after 1929, we must, on the most modest calculation get a quota of 11,382 tons instead of 6,850 tons for 1934 and proportionate increase for the subsequent years. That much of Arithmetic I suppose would bring home to us the immensity of the loss we are in for, under the present award. A comparison of our position with that of Ceylon will also reveal the same story. Thus while Ceylon under the present award will be able to export 82 to 87 per cent of her crop production for 1934, India could export only 21 per cent of hers.

What this iniquitous rubber restriction scheme would therefore mean to us in actual working, would be clear to you, Sir, when it is known that our rubber estates with an average production capacity of 300 lbs., of rubber per acre are under the present award allowed to export only the pittance of about 63 lbs., per acre. Is'nt it better then to abandon all tapping and close down the estates? Verily, the vaunted remedy—the restriction scheme has come to be worse than the disease.

But it is never too late to mend. The Travancore Government are collecting correct facts and figures on all the relevant aspects of the question with a view to make strong representations to the authorities concerned, and we in Cochin also would be well advised to follow the lead of our Sister State in this matter and leave no stone unturned to get redress of the great injustice done to us.

Here then, Sir, is a matter which as I at the outset demands and deserves our diligent and anxious consideration and our

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best and persistent efforts. Based on my long experience as Planter for the last half a century I hold out this warning that if the quota for South India is not revised and steps immediately taken to procure for her rightful share in production and export of rubber, the rubber industry cannot survive. I may add that Travancore has taken a step in the proper direction in initiating the manufacture of rubber goods and Cochin will do well to follow Travancore's worthy example. The Tannery buildings now lying idle and practically owned by the Government are in a central and ideal situation for such an undertaking in Cochin.

One word on self-government before I close. Self-government is no doubt very good, but it has always its abuses and it is for the Government to be constantly on the alert so that the powers and the money entrusted to local bodies may not be abused and wasted.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എം. സീതി.—സർ, ഫ ഫ ഫ ഠ -ാമാണ്ടത്തെ ആയ വ്യയക്കണക്കിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പൊതുവായ നിരൂപണം ചെയ്യുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ, നാട്ടുകാക്കു് ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഈ സഭയിൽ നിന്നും ചെയ്യുന്ന തീരുമാനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചു ക്ഷമയില്ലാതെ അവർ കാത്തുകൊണ്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ അവക്കു് ഏറ്റവും കാര്യമായുള്ള സംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി പറയുമ്പോൾ നില്ക്കുക; വരട്ടെ എന്നാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് പറയുന്നതു്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തിക കഴപ്പം നിമിത്തം നികുതി കൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കാതേയും കടഭാരത്തിൽ നിന്നു തലപൊക്കുവാൻ കഴിയാതേയും കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നവക്കും വരവു കൊണ്ടു മതിയാവാതെ പട്ടിണിപോലും അനുഭവിയ്ക്കുന്നവരുമായവക്കും ഒരു രക്ഷചെയ്യുകിട്ടണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ മുറവിളി. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് യാതൊരു സമാധാനത്തിനും ആശ്വാസത്തിനും ഇടയില്ലാത്തവിധം എന്തെന്നില്ലാത്ത പലിശഭാരം അവരെ പീഡിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും എന്തെങ്കിലും സഹായം ചെയ്യുതരണമെന്നു് അവർ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു പറയുന്ന മറുപടി നിൽക്കു; വരട്ടെ; നിരാശപ്പെടണ്ടാ എന്നൊക്കെയാണു്. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ ഈ സംഗതിയിലാണു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു മുന്നിട്ടനിന്നു മൈയ്ത്തോടുകൂടി പ്രവൃത്തിച്ചു കാണിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു്.

എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതനായ ഒരു സാമാജികൻ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടും, വൈസ്രായി അവർകളും വന്നിട്ടാണ് ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുപകാരപ്രദമായ എതാനും ലക്ഷം ഉറുപ്പിക അനുവദിച്ചതെന്നു്. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലേയ്ക്കും, വൈസ്രായി അവർകൾക്കും നാട്ടിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഗുണത്തിൽ അകാംക്ഷയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിൽ അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസമില്ല.

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എത്രയോ മാസങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പു മുതൽ തന്നെ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ കഷ്ടപ രിഹാരങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വിളംബരം പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്നുണ്ടെ ന്നു പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. പലിശ ചുരുക്കുവാൻ നിയമങ്ങൾ പാസ്സാക്കു മെന്നു് പരസ്യമായി ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്തു. ഇങ്ങി നെയുള്ള പല ആകാംക്ഷകളും ആശകളും ഉളവാക്കിയതിനശേ ഷം അതുപ്രകാരമൊന്നും പ്രവൃത്തിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഭാവമില്ലെന്നു് തോ ന്നിയ്ക്കുമാറു് പെട്ടെന്നു് ഒരന്വേഷണക്കമ്മിഷനറിയെ നിയമിച്ചു. അ ങ്ങിനെ ഈ ഭാരം മുഴുവനും ഒരു കമ്മിഷനറിയെ ഏല്പിയ്ക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. എന്നാൽ ആ നിലയിൽ ഏല്പിച്ചു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ള അന്വേഷണക്കമ്മിഷനറിയുടെ ശുപാർശകളെന്തെന്നു നാട്ടുകാരറിയു ന്നില്ല. അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു് സമർപ്പിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അ തിലെ ശുപാർശകളനുസരിച്ചു് എന്തെങ്കിലും നടപടികൾ ഈ നാ ട്ടിൽ നടപ്പിൽ വരുമോ എന്നും നാട്ടുകാരറിയുന്നില്ല. സാമ്പത്തി കാധഃപതനനിവാരണാർത്ഥം ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള സകല പ്രതിജ്ഞകളും ഭഞ്ജിയ്ക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നു നാട്ടുകാർ വിശ്വസിയ്ക്കുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉ പദേഷ്ടാക്കളായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ചെയ്യുന്ന ശു പാർശകളനുസരിച്ചെങ്കിലും അവയ്ക്കു രക്ഷയനുവദിച്ചു കിട്ടിയാൽ മതിയെന്നാണു് നാട്ടുകാരപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ഈ നി ല ഇതു വളരെ കാലമായി അവയ്ക്കു തിരുമനസ്സിനെ അറിയിയ്ക്കു വാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈ വക സംഗതികൾ അധികാരസ്ഥാന ത്തെ അറിയിയ്ക്കുവാൻ അല്പമെങ്കിലും തടസ്ഥം വരുത്തുന്നവർ ജന ങ്ങളുടെ അതികഠിനമായ രോഷത്തിനിടയാക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യു ന്നതെന്നുമാത്രം പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. നാട്ടുകാരുടെ കഷ്ടതകൾ എ ത്രത്തോളമുണ്ടെന്നു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനറിയുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതു മുതൽ ഈ നിമിഷം വരെയും അതിനൊരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഗവ ൺമെണ്ടിനു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഒന്നും ചെയ്യുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ കൈ പിടിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ആ രാണുള്ളതു്? ദിവാൻജിയവർകൾക്കും, ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടു മേലദ്ധ്യ ക്ഷന്മാർക്കും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പലതും ചെയ്യുവാനാഗ്രഹമുണ്ടെന്നു നാട്ടുകാരറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. ആ ആഗ്രഹങ്ങൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ എന്താണു തടസ്ഥമെന്നതേ ഞാൻ ചോദിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതൊന്നും ഇനിയും പൊതിഞ്ഞു വയ്ക്കേണ്ട സംഗതികളല്ല. നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ഗു ണത്തെയും മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ യശസ്സിനേയും, ഭരണ കൂടത്തിന്റെ യശസ്സിനേയും പാലിയ്ക്കുവാനായിട്ടാണു് ഈ വക സംഗതികളെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള നാട്ടുകാരുടെ വിചാരങ്ങളെ ഇവിടെ ഉ റപ്പിച്ചു പറയുന്നതു്.

നാട്ടുകാരുടെ കടപരിഹാരത്തിനായി ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്നും അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം രൂപാ നീക്കി വയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ അതു് ഇ

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തുവരെ അവക്ക് കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. എങ്ങിനെയെല്ലാമാണ് അതു വിനിയോഗം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു നിശ്ചയിയ്ക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഇതു കൂടാതെ എത്രയോ ലക്ഷോപലക്ഷം രൂപാ വൈസ്രായി അവർകളുടെ വിരുന്നു സല്ക്കാരത്തിനും യാത്രച്ചിലവുകൾക്കുമായി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ചിലവുചെയ്തു. ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള ജനങ്ങളുടെ വിചാരഗതിയാണു പറയുന്നതു്. എത്രയെത്രയോ ലക്ഷംരൂപാ മറ്റു വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ വിഷമംകൂടാതെ ചിലവഴിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ക്ഷാമപരിഹാരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി നിക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ള രൂപാ ചിലവാക്കേണ്ടതെങ്ങിനെയാണെന്നുപോലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഇതുവരെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല. ഇങ്ങിനെയാണു് നാട്ടുകാർ ധരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. അവക്ക് വിരുന്നു സല്ക്കാരത്തിന്റെ ആലങ്കാരികമായ വശങ്ങളും നൈതികപ്രമാണങ്ങളും ഒന്നും അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ. ഇനിയെങ്കിലും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രേയസ്സിനെ പുലർത്തുന്നതും, ജനങ്ങളുടെ രക്ഷയ്ക്കുതകുന്നതുമായ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഉടനടികഴിയുമോ എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യണമെന്നുദ്ദേശിയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ഇനിയെങ്കിലും കാലതാമസം കൂടാതെ ചെയ്യുക. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സാമ്പത്തികാധഃപതനത്തിനു് ശാശ്വതമായ പരിഹാരമായുള്ള സൃഷ്ടിപരമായ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുപിടിയ്ക്കുക.

ഈ നാട്ടിലെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വിലയുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് വല്ല മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും തുറന്നുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ ശക്തമാണെങ്കിൽ അതുവഴിയ്ക്കു പരിശ്രമിയ്ക്കണം. അതിലേയ്ക്കാവശ്യമുള്ള യന്ത്രശാലകളും മറ്റിൽശാലകളും ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണം. ഇന്നു് ഇൻഡ്യയുടെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും പുറത്തും നമ്മുടെ ഉല്പന്നങ്ങളുടെ വിലവിനുവേണ്ടി മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളുണ്ടാക്കുകയും, അതിലേയ്ക്കു് തീരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ നമ്മുടെ കച്ചവടപ്രതിനിധികളെ നിശ്ചയിയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുകയും ഭാവിയിലെങ്കിലും ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾക്കു വില വർദ്ധിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണു്. അതുയാതൊന്നും നമ്മുടെ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നതായി ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റുകൊണ്ടോ, ബഡ്ജറ്റു പ്രസംഗങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടോ അറിയുവാൻ എനിയ്ക്കു സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ നാട്ടുകാർക്കെന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യണമെന്നാഗ്രഹമുള്ളതായി നാട്ടുകാരറിയുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനു നേരിട്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന വിഷമതകളെന്താണെന്നുള്ളതു് നാട്ടുകാരറിയുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വക സംഗതികളെല്ലാം മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനെ ഈ ജനപ്രതിനിധിസഭാമൂലം അറിയിയ്ക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ പ്രത്യേകം അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇനി എനിയ്ക്കു് ഒരു സംഗതി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് എന്റെ

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പ്രത്യേക നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ കാര്യത്തിൽ കാര്യമായ പല സഹായങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടാണിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതും, ചെയ്ത സഹായങ്ങൾക്കായി മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങൾ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ അടുത്ത കാലത്തു് മുസ്ലീം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിനു് പല വിഷമങ്ങളും നേരിട്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ ഏറ്റവും പിന്നണിയിൽ നില്ക്കുന്ന ഈ സമുദായത്തിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയായിരുന്നു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് മുസ്ലീമിങ്ങളുടെ ഫീസ്സ് കാര്യത്തിൽ പകുതി ഫീസ്സ് അനുവദിച്ചതു്. അതു് അഫ്തിയ്ക്കുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കു പലർക്കും കിട്ടാതെ വന്നിരുന്നു. ആയിടയ്ക്കു് ഒരു ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുത്തരവു മൂലം കൌൺസിൽ മെമ്പർമാരുടേയോ, പഞ്ചായത്തു മെമ്പർമാരുടേയോ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള മറ്റു അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടേയോ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു ഹാജരാക്കിയാൽ മതിയെന്നാക്കിയിരുന്നു. ഈയിടെ ആ നിശ്ചയം മാറ്റി വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു വാങ്ങേണ്ടതാണെന്നു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് ഒരുത്തരവു പുറപ്പെടുവിയ്ക്കുകയും, അതു നിമിത്തം കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂരിൽ അഞ്ചു കൂട്ടികൾ പഠിപ്പു നിറുത്തി പോകുകയും ചെയ്തു. ആദ്യം അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു മതിയെന്നു വച്ചിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു പാടില്ലെന്നുള്ള വിധത്തിൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ഈ തീരുമാനത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശമെന്താണെന്നു് എനിയ്ക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് മേലാൽ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടുത്തരവിൽ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ നിർബ്ബന്ധമായി ആവശ്യപ്പെടരുതെന്നപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ഈ വക അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ എപ്പോഴും നിഷ്പക്ഷമായിരിയ്ക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിയ്ക്കുണ്ട്. സാമാന്യേന ഒരു വില്ലേജിലുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരേക്കാൾ കൂടുതലായുള്ള ഒരറിവു് ആ വില്ലേജിലെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുണ്ടായിരിയ്ക്കും. നികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്ന സംഖ്യയേ വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അറിയുകയുള്ളു. ഒരാളുടെ ധനസംബന്ധമായ കഴിവു് അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരറിയുന്നതുപോലെ വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അറിയുകയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇങ്ങിനെയൊരു നിർബ്ബന്ധം വയ്ക്കരുതെന്നു് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

കടത്തിൽ മുഴുകി പട്ടിണിയും പാടുമായി കഴിയുന്ന ആളുകൾക്കും അവരുടെ പേരിൽ ജപ്തി കാണും. അവരും നികുതി കൊടുക്കുന്നവരായിരിയ്ക്കും. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റു കൊടുത്തുകൂടായെന്നു് വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പറഞ്ഞയ്ക്കുവുന്നതും അതുകൊണ്ടു വളരെ വിഷമം നേരിടുന്നതുമാണ്. കൂടാതെ ഈ ചുമതല നല്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലമായി വില്ലേജുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ

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ന്മാർ പലരും ഉഷിച്ചുപോകുവാനും ഇടവരും. ഈ വക അനുഭവങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഞാൻ കേൾക്കുന്നു. അതിനെപറ്റി എനിയ്ക്കു പൂർണ്ണമായ അറിവില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് കൂടുതലൊന്നും പറയുന്നില്ല. മുമ്പു് ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു് അനുഭാഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ വിശ്വസിച്ചു വന്നിരുന്നു. അന്നൊന്നും അതുകൊണ്ടു യാതൊരബദ്ധങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ അവരുടെ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു വാങ്ങിയാൽ മതിയെന്നുള്ള മുമ്പിലത്തെ നിശ്ചയം വീണ്ടും നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിനോടപേക്ഷിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. നിലനിന്നാരായ മുസ്ലീം കുട്ടികൾക്കു പകുതി ഫീസ് ഇളവു ചെയ്യുന്ന വിഷത്തിൽ അവർ അനുഭോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ സ്റ്റേറ്റുമെന്റു വാങ്ങിയാൽ മതിയെന്നാക്കണം. പകുതി ഫീസു കാര്യത്തിൽ ചില മാറ്റങ്ങൾ വരുത്തുവാനാലോചിച്ചിട്ടു് പിന്നീടു് വേണ്ടെന്നു വയ്ക്കുകയാണുണ്ടായതു്. മറ്റു വിഷയങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പല സമാജികന്മാരും സംസാരിയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു് എനിയ്ക്കു് ഇതിൽ കൂടുതലായി ഒന്നും പറയുവാനില്ല.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Mr. President, Sir, twelve calendar months have gone by since the House had the privilege of discussing the forecast of income and expenditure for the current year placed before this House by the Finance Member of the Government. We are told by the Hon'ble Member as we used to be told on previous occasions by him and his predecessors in office that the forecast made about this time last year was not anything even approximating to the actualities. But this is not anything new to this House. The very same Hon'ble Member told us about this time in 1107 that the anticipated income and expenditure during 1108 will be 83 lakhs 63 thousands and 81 lakhs 82 thousand rupees respectively. But while presenting the Budget for 1109 we were told that the revised figures for 1108 will be a crore and 2 lakhs and 23 thousand rupees on the receipt side and 83 lakhs and 25 thousand on the disbursement side thus expecting the year 1108 to close with a surplus of 18 lakhs and 98 thousand while at the beginning of the year his forecast was only for a small surplus of a lakh and 81 thousand. Yesterday the Hon'ble Member told us that the year 1108 actually closed with a surplus of 23 lakhs and 28 thousand rupees an event the like of which the State had not witnessed before. Look! How he characterises this. These are his own words. 'The actual transactions of the year did not belie our expectations.' If a surplus of 23 lakhs and 29 thousand rupees where only a lakh and 81 thousand alone was anticipated is not a case of belieing one's expectations, I fail to see what phenomenon will deserve that name. With the above antecedents for the year 1108 if we are told by the Finance Member that his forecast for the current year, viz. 86 lakhs and 97

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thousand on the receipt side and 86 lakhs and 67 thousand on the disbursement side made 12 months back stands as per his revised figures at 91 lakhs and 37 thousand of income and 93 lakhs and 62 thousand of expenditure one finds nothing in it to wonder at. What these revised figures will be changed into in the shape of actuals will be told to this House only about this time next year. Various attempts are seen to have been made by the Hon'ble Member for Finance to explain away the difference, but they do not stand scrutiny. Does the Hon'ble Member expect us to swallow the pill so easily when he tells us that the main causes for an increase of 7 and odd lakhs of expenditure over the budget forecast are the Vice-regal visit and His Highness' north India tour? Were not these events known to take place during the early part of the year while preparing the budget? Due provision for these important unavoidable items of expenditure should have been made in the budget forecast. I am prone to think that these items of known expenditure were all deliberately not provided for simply for the purpose of showing a prosperity budget with a view to satisfy the high paid officers, some of whom are known to have been pressing the Government to call of the small cut effected on their fat salaries to extend which and similar iniquities on the poorly paid subordinate officers also the budget for 1108 was deliberately presented showing only a small surplus of a lakh and 81 thousand while the actual surplus for the year was more than 23 lakhs of rupees as we have already seen. These colossal differences between the forecasts and the actuals can only be the result either of deliberate attempt or ignorance. In neither case is it excusable? Thus much for the jugglery in figures to which this House is treated year after year.

Now Sir, a word about the answer 'wait and see' to a question the Hon'ble Member anticipates his non-official colleagues might ask. May I ask the Hon'ble Finance Member how long are we to wait? What has the Government done thus far to help the hard hit agriculturists whose commodities do not even fetch him the cost of production? The 12½ per cent remission of land revenue proclaimed in Karkadagam 1108 could not be given to him within 5 months of the promise although a further reduction of 6¼ per cent was made though at the sacrifice of the budgetted items of work in the D. P. W. Would not a little of promptitude in the matter of helping the suffering agriculturists have avoided the agrarian Styagraha movement with all the unhappy repurcussions thereof?

Has it been possible, Sir, for the Government to disburse even a pie from the 5 lakhs graciously provided as economic depression loan? The Hon'ble Leader of the House told us the other day that he expects to finish the work of inspection of

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the security offered for the respective loans applied for by Meenam 1110. May I ask whether it would not be advisable to drop the idea altogether if the Government cannot possibly manage to give out these loans when needed.

No one knows as yet what are the findings of the Ad Hoc capitalist Committee that has been appointed by the Government so long ago as Makaram last in defiance of the opinion of the House. What exactly is the attitude of the Government regarding the institution of Land Mortgage Banks which alone can give an appreciable relief to the sinking agriculturists? Do they still stick on to the old song 'wait till the Economic Survey Report is received' or do they intend to act before it is too late? This lethargy on the part of the Government is again inexcusable. The earlier it shirks this off and comes to the rescue of the poor agriculturists the better for all concerned. Remember the old maxim 'a stitch in time saves nine'.

The House is indeed glad to find that the affairs of this State, viz., the Harbour are placed in the hands of one of the ablest of advocates personally advised by our Diwan who, it is gratifying to note, is taking a keen interest in fighting for our rights. Cannot this House legitimately request the Government to so shape the policy as to ensure the immediate taking up of the fourth stage of the Harbour without which there is not the slightest justification for the enormous expenditure already incurred on the Harbour and Railway. It has to be stated that to have gone in for a loan for spending on the fourth stage of the harbour and the conversion of the railway into a broad-gauge line before finally settling the central question of the full development of the harbour and other allied subjects was indeed foolish. I may here state that it is nothing short of a pity that the Government was not able to appraise its own weight when it proposed 5 per cent interest for a loan of 75 lakhs which had to be closed within a few hours of its floating and which even during these few hours were over-subscribed to the extent of 32 lakhs.

Equally important as the question of final settlement of all questions relating to the harbour is the question of taking the people into the confidence of the Government and keep them informed of the developments from time to time through communiques not of the type recently issued.

It is equally necessary to take such steps as would ensure to us the maximum income from the now developed railway. It is not enough if we blindly accept the figures sent to us by the South Indian Railway Company. The Government must be in a position to scrutinise these figures and see that we get our legitimate share. Even the employment of an officer who has

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the necessary training in this line will be a move in the right line.

I take this opportunity, Sir, to repeat the statement made by me in my last year's budget speech that our judiciary is full of discontented men. It is up to the Government to see that this discontent is removed. It is surprising to find that the Government had to import an able advocate from outside to fill up the post of a Special Judge of our Chief Court. This act of the Government was attempted to be justified in the Standing Finance Committee by the statement that the whole of our judiciary in the higher grades and the men at the top of our Bar were all disqualified to try the cases for the trial of which the importation was made. I ask the Government what about our retired Chief Court Judges like Messrs. P. I. Varugis, C. V. Antony, V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Karimpat Achyuta Menon and other retired officers like Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon and Mr. U. Kandir Menon who were all Judges of the Chief Court not to speak veterans at the bar like the Hon'ble Member for Trichur and other veterans like Mr. Rengaswami Ayyar and Mr. M. Narayana Menon and many others who have established their names as very able advocates and upright gentlemen? Will the Government say that one and all of them are disqualified? I am informed otherwise. I wonder who advised our Diwan regarding the disqualification of these and why?

Before leaving the judiciary, I would strongly request the Government to place both our District Judges on the maximum pay of our Second Grade officers and give our magistracy the pay recommended by the Standing Finance Committee, *viz.*, Rs. 150 to 200 a month. I would also recommend a higher pay to the State Public Prosecutor.

I feel sorry that I happened to be the sponsor of a Resolution to make the Traffic Superintendent permanent. I am sure that the Hon'ble Members who supported my resolution will also feel sorry when they know that the acceptance of the Resolution had the effect of depriving the now permanent Traffic department of the services of a very clever unassuming level headed officer who had gained sufficiently long experience in the working of the department and whose work as the man in charge of the department was greatly appreciated by all who had anything to do with the traffic department. I fail to see the wisdom of the Government in placing the traffic department which, when temporary, required the services of a full timed officer under one whose hands are expected to be full of things quite unconnected with the Traffic Department, with the internal working of which he had nothing to do before.

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I do not feel justified to close my remarks without referring to a recent act of the authorities of our Maharaja's College. I am told that many students who sought admission into the Natural Science group they were refused admission in spite of the fact that the number had not reached the maximum allowed by the University and that there was the equipment necessary for their admission. This becomes all the more serious when it is known that this is the only College in these parts which gives instruction in Natural Science not to speak of the loss of income to the College, where I believe a lot of money has been spent on brick and mortar and also on avoidable costly furniture.

As I understand that the case of a certain section of the assistant professors working in the College, *viz.*, a re-adjustment of the proportion between the higher grade and the lower grade assistant professors is engaging the sympathetic consideration of the Diwan. I do not wish to make any comments on that subject just now except that it is a matter which requires rectification and that at the earliest opportunity.

Let me now pass on to another branch of Development Department. I do not see my way to agree with the Hon'ble Finance Member when he says that since organising the Co-operative Department under a full timed Registrar co-operation has been making rapid progress in the State. If there is any department which if well and efficiently worked can bring untold good to the people at large, it is the Co-operative Department but unfortunate it is that such a department had all along been a department coming in for well merited criticism from all quarters. It is indeed gratifying to note that the Government has arranged to have the valuable advice of Mr. Devadhar of all India fame regarding the lines of future development. I am sure that with his close association with the veteran co-operator while conducting his inquiry our prospective Registrar of Co-operative Societies will be able to give us the full benefits of his Foreign education and show what co-operation can do in a scheme of rural uplift.

I will before concluding my remarks request the Government to have some definite working rules as distinguished from comprehensive rules on paper regarding general recruitment to the services as also definite rules regarding the recruitment of unrepresented communities. I am of opinion that the revised rules of the Mysore Government regarding recruitment published in the Daily Edition of the Hindu dated 4th July 1934 should satisfy both the represented and unrepresented communities.

I would also request the Government to give up the step-motherly attitude shown to the newly opened department of Ayurveda, an institution which is closely associated with the

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name of one of the most illustrious of our rulers should receive but a pittance of Rs. 13,900 in the year succeeding its hasty inauguration when our Permanent Diwan was away from the State for political reasons and that the Government could find for the useful department only an additional thousand for the next year, is indeed something which merits serious investigation. What if it is characterised as the 'Cinderalla' of the Government which expression the Hon'ble Finance Member is seen to be taking exception to.

I shall before resuming my seat make an earnest request to the Government to see that the pressing needs of the people are attended to with the least delay, consistent with the seriousness of the situation and that the defects pointed out by the non-official Members of this House are remedied in the interests of all concerned.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I too wish to associate myself with the general discussion of the budget. I do not propose to go through the Financial Member's speech in detail because it is the usual speech with some peroration towards the end to which I hope all the Members of this Council would take objection. He admitted that all the resources of the State had been tapped to the utmost and the only hope of our future finances are the potentialities of the capital outlay work, such as the Harbour and the Railway. The income from the Railway will to a great extent be dependent on the development of the Harbour and the development of the harbour is kept in abeyance. We are not privileged to know the details of the Simla Conference, but we are glad to hear that our present Diwan is making all endeavours, he is fighting tooth and nail, to protect the rights of Cochin. I, on my behalf and on behalf of my constituency, congratulate you, Sir, on the bold stand that you are taking in this matter and I may tell you that you have the solid support of this Council as well as the whole of the public with you in fighting for the privileges and rights that are ours. Why I say this is that this happens to be the Kalpaka tree that gives us food in future. It would appear that some are trying to poach into the garden and pluck the tree of its fruit or stunt its growth. We shall not allow it and we will resist it with all the powers at our command.

The other source of income which is capable of expansion is the income-tax. I am not one with the Hon'ble Member for Trichur that it is an obnoxious tax as he characterised it. I would think that it is one of the most equitable of taxes but my only fear is that it may not yield the income that may be required for the future economic development of the State. Sir, one prominent fact a striking omission is the inadequacy or in

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fact the paucity of, any provision in the Budget for the economic reconstruction.

Sir, there is absolutely no provision made for any measures for the amelioration of the sad plight under which the people have been placed. There seems to be a faint recognition in the Finance Member's speech of the existence of difficulties, but not of the actual distress in the land which will compel the Government to take ameliorative measures. This question has not been given by the Government the importance that it actually deserves. The question of finance or for the matter of that any other question did not stand in the way of the Government for carrying out many things for which there was absolutely no provision in the budget of the last year. I would illustrate my position. There was no paucity of funds for the lavish entertainment of State Guests. There was no paucity of funds for the Tours of His Highness the Maharaja. Let me not be understood to mean that I am taking objections to these items of expenditure as such. It is only to illustrate the point that if the Government really wants to do a thing, they will find funds. They felt the necessity for the Tour and for the reception of His Excellency the Viceroy and they found funds. In the same manner if they actually felt that there is real distress and hardship among the masses I am sure they will find funds. I do not think there is any necessity to go through the budget to find out similar cures. One great thing is that there seems to be no pretentions for doing anything on this behalf in the budget. We are simply asked to "wait and see". I stand here and I do wish to tell the Government that the masses are not likely to wait any further. If the Government has really felt the necessity of doing something for the amelioration of the Economic distress there can only be either of these difficulties. One is probably the want of a proper scheme and other paucity of funds. I am sure that paucity of funds will not stand in the way for I can show half a dozen items in the budget from which they can find funds. I find they are providing more and more funds for collegiate education which will benefit only a few hundreds of students of the rich: They provide more than two lakhs of rupees either for studies or on buildings. Then there is the provision for the revision of the Palace scheme. I do not stand in the way of making any revision of the Palace Scheme. But this is not the time for it. I am sure that if you tell the Princes, they are so solicitous for the well-being of their subjects that these are very hard times and request them to wait for another two years I am sure they will very graciously accede to it. You can thus straightaway effect a saving of a lakh and a half rupees. Then there is the provision for the Electric Scheme. Here also I am not against

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the scheme. But I wish only to say that the scheme can wait until we tide over the present difficulties. As at present intended it can only add to the amenities of the rich. It is not likely to improve the economic condition of the masses. Then again Sir if the Government is so minded there could be no difficulty to effect some retrenchment by a cut in the salaries of officers. I do not find there is any reason why a cut in the salary of the officers should not be insisted upon. Certainly a cut will be hard and I am sure it will not be liked by any officer whom it may affect. But look at the other side of the picture. We are now paying the officers the pay which was fixed some years ago. Now the purchasing power of rupee has considerably increased and even tantamounts to saying that it has almost increased by 50 per cent. So those who were drawing Rs. 800 should be deemed to be now drawing Rs. 1,600. The purchasing power of the rupee has so much increased that it will not affect them even if a cut of ten or fifteen per cent is effected. It is not with pleasure that I am bringing forward this suggestion before the House. It is in the interests of those whose income has been cut 60 to 70 per cent on account of the abnormal fall in prices. In this way, the Government can find a saving of over 6—8 lakhs of rupees which they can spend on some ameliorative scheme We have found that the present economic depression has hit the agriculturists the hardest who form the backbone of the country. We have to see that their earning power is increased. That can be done only by inducing them to do work by providing more suitable work for them and make them produce articles which are saleable and to find markets for them. So I would suggest a saving on the lines I have mentioned and spend a big portion of the amount on the organization of cottage industries suitable to each locality through-out the State (*Hear, hear*), and finding out market for their finished products. Look at the enterprising spirit of Japan. Look at the number of articles that we find everywhere and that are thrust upon us. Some of the very valuable articles that are thrust upon us are the products of their cottage industries, I may inform the Government that the State will not be a loser if they have to appoint an officer on a pay Rs. 300 or Rs. 1000 if he can propose a scheme to introduce cottage industries on a large scale. This alone will increase the earning capacity of the people and this alone will increase ultimately the national wealth. I do not propose to go into the details of the various other heads of the Budget. I do not also propose to issue certificates as the Hon'ble Member "who has no axe to grind" tried to do in this Council. I do not understand what is the earthly use of making such sweeping statements and accusations against two of the

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most important and most efficiently managed departments of the State ministering to the welfare of the people. Of course if that gentleman had not prefaced his speech by saying that he has no axe to grind I would have been put in a very awkward position. But when I read between the lines of the preface and the accusations he made about certain elections and officers and when I recollect as to what has happened in connection with those elections I am constrained to remark that there is something behind it and therefore I would only request the Government to read those speeches between the lines and to find that they are only the outcome of something which I do not wish to express in this Council.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, the speech that was just closed has shown what an unpleasant thing it is to partake in a budget discussion. We pass from the columns, figures, totals, names, etc., of the budget estimate into petty elections whose results we do not care much to know. Sir, it would be a pity if this Council Chamber is used be it by me or by anybody else to drag in these petty fights (*Hear, hear*). The more we avoid it the better for the State and for the people as a whole. Sir, several things recur every year. We have got the monsoon, we have got the eclipses, we have got the tiresome birthday and so also we have the annual budgets presented to us. That has become a persistently recurring event on which the Members of this House are expected to say a few words and for that purpose to study at least casually the facts and figures which would show how the administration of the State is carried on. I have an explanation for not going into the budget deeply only yesterday we heard that the budget estimates did not truly represent the doings of the Government and that was heard from the Government benches. There is no charm about these figures, these columns and names, these items of expenditure and corresponding figures in the receipts. They do not attract me. They or the like were all there during the last half a century. No doubt you have added some items more in the receipts and expenditure and these have been supplied to the Finance Member. My complaint is that the Finance Member has no originality. The Government of Cochin has not given him an original independent position. The term "Finance Member" is indicative of an important function and is indeed a high sounding name, but what is the function of our Finance Member? Every department supplies their own figures to the Huzur and the Huzur passes them on to the Comptroller and the Comptroller puts them in the Budget. He is not responsible for suggesting or discovering sources of revenue or in incurring any expenditure. He is only the Comptroller. Let us not be misled by the high

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sounding name of the "Finance Member". The smallest Member of the House ought to be the strongest Member. The authority of the Finance Member must be felt in every field of administration. That has not been felt till now. There was an idea once when Sir Albion Banerji was the Diwan, to make the Comptroller independent of the Diwan and to make him directly responsible, with direct access, to His Highness the Maharaja, independently of the Diwan. The idea was that the Finance Member should be independent of the Diwan and the Huzur should not check him so that he may be bold to point out the faults of the administrative head also. Now Sir, it is feared that the control that the so-called Finance Member or the Comptroller of Accounts has on the working of the department is very little and this I assign to the fact that he is not independent. Salary in the abstract we may say does not count. But in effect and in practice it does count as between officer and officer. We all know it. If you want a real Comptroller, a real Finance Member we must make him independent so that he may speak independently.

In this connection I have to refer to certain self-governing institutions which we have created in the State. I do not want to particularise. There are certain self-governing institutions to which estimates and sanctions have no value. Works are carried on according to their own sweet will and pleasure according to their vagaries and eccentricities and all these are sanctioned by the Government. There is a provision for surcharge in some of our regulations. If any of our self-governing institutions—I include Panchayats also—go beyond their power and waste their money on works which are not sanctioned then it is for the Government through the Comptroller to see that they are brought to book and asked to repay the money that they have wasted. It is for this that I say that the Comptroller has to be made a really effective officer by giving him a suitable position. The present control is generally inefficient and half-hearted. Incidentally I may mention here that the Trichur Municipal Council which taxes even Pappadams was thinking of Radio installations for the town while there some of the drains were stinking and mosquitoes were humming. I understand that at the same time a contribution was recommended for a Ladies' Club in the town. What has a Ladies' Club to do with Municipal administration? It is a small matter but there is a large principle involved in it. I emphatically say that the Government should be more watchful on the doings of these local bodies and a stricter control should be exercised over them. The vagaries and eccentricities of these local bodies should be put a stop to with an iron hand.

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I never wanted to refer to any particular Department in this discussion but the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for Chittur-rural tempt me to say a word in regard to the Panchayat administration. I have had occasion to go through some of the reports on the working of certain departments of the State and I make bold to say that the Panchayat Department is working at least as efficiently as any other Department. I am not holding out encomiums.

Sir, you came here at a time when this State has been witnessing large changes. Cochin has, at last come out into the world. The Harbour which we are now developing gives us quick and direct touch with most of the important places in the world. The Broad Gauge Conversion is ancillary to the Harbour development. That naturally has brought before us the question of the jurisdiction over the harbour area. Then there is the question regarding the collection of our revenues not only in the Harbour but also in the railway. Till now we were following a policy of trust but when our revenues increase and reach very very high figures this policy of trust has to be replaced. An open door tempts a Saint. Money is money. When our income in one department alone has risen from two lakhs to twenty lakhs, it is necessary for us to check carefully both the receipt and the expenditure side. Have you provided any department or a staff which can do it? This topic was raised in this Council years ago. It has often been printed out that there must be a department staffed with men specially trained, who will be able to check the receipts and expenditure in these departments which bring us large revenues. I have no doubt that the present policy of trust is no good. When we are coming into contact with the world outside more and more as has been exemplified by the three bills that were moved yesterday bearing on tea, matches and rubber, naturally we must come into conflict with other agencies. Till now our fights were being carried on by the Diwan. Sir A. R. Banerji had to do a lot of our fight. These fights were carried on by the Diwan single-handed, of course in the consultation with His Highness the Maharaja.

But at a time when the people had no power, when the people did not count, it was all right. But now the Diwan shares his authority with the people. Naturally, therefore the authority that the Diwan once had in carrying out the transactions with the outside powers must grow smaller. The Diwan has parted with some of his powers in favour of the people and when goes to fight the State's cause he now goes there bereft of the powers that he has given to us. Therefore, Sir, what I want to impress upon the Government is that in all these matters

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in which you have to negotiate with outside bodies and powers you must be backed by the people and it is only when you have the backing of the people you will be able to carry on the fight successfully and to claim that the cause you fight for the people's cause. I request you therefore to take the people into co-operation. In making this request I do not mean any particular section of the people, I mean the people as a whole. Unfortunately for Cochin the people are divided into factions even now. There is no denying the fact that factions prevail however much we may try to hide them. It is not the co-operation of this camp or that camp, it is not the co-operation of this caste or that caste, it is not the co-operation of this section or that section, that I want to secure. I want you to obtain the co-operation of the people as a whole and that co-operation must be hearty. You know Sir, that in British India when certain sections of the people moved for self-government certain other sections saw that they had no truth in those who were leading that moment. When you move forward with some sections there may be others who may protest against it and, proclaiming that they have no trust in you, may look up to the Paramount power. Appeals to the Paramount power is not a new thing in Cochin. Time and again sections of the people appealed to the Paramount power for the redress of their grievances. The cry that some sections of the people have been trodden upon by others has often been carried to that power. Therefore what I wish to point out is that this distinction between the privileged and the unprivileged sections must cease. You have to devise means so as to do away with once for all this inequality between sections of the people. We have been crying—some of us who are branded as communalists have been crying in this House—that the only way to stop this communal cry is to do away with the privileged and unprivileged sections and to throw open the public services to all. It is not an easy task I know, but we suggested a remedy, the Public Services Commission, I know the drawbacks of a service commission I know that it cannot be perfect; but nevertheless it is a remedy. Bring it in with any rules you like. Never mind, if the rules are imperfect till you bring it in this communalism will stay. I do not know who is responsible for the delay. I hear that the Diwan has already made his recommendations on the Services Commission. Every moment that you delay in introducing this Services Commission, you make the communal war in the State more and more bitter.

Now, Sir, I have to refer to a rather unpleasant matter. I do not want to refer to personalities. There is a strong feel-

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ing that since the advent of the present Secretary, the Huzur has become a closer reserve for the privileged sections. The Secretary comes of a House.....

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Without interrupting, will you please mention the names of clerks who have been selected from the privileged sections? This is a very serious charge and I want to explain.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I have got the Civil List here and if necessary I will place the facts therefrom before the House.

Even the other day a clerk was taken into the Huzur from the Diwan Peishkar's Office. I do not understand the necessity for such a transfer of one of the privileged class when there were several applicants for posts in the Huzur.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Let us just explain and clear up the whole thing. A clerk had to be taken up from the Diwan Peishkar's Office because a clerk had to be transferred from the Huzur. That clerk was on the Rs. 60—80 grade. We wanted a clerk on Rs. 60—80 with the relevant tests and for that we looked into the various departments and it was found that this was the only clerk in that grade with the required tests.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—I have the Civil list figures here. This House has been in existence for the last ten years. It has been pointed out here several times that in the poor representation of communities, the Huzur stands in the forefront and the present Secretary has been there for a long time now.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—In these years how many appointments have been made from the represented and unrepresented communities? You can take any amount of time to place the correct information.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—The Civil list is here. I do not think I am entitled to take any amount of time.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—You should substantiate the remarks.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Huzur is the place which is to control every department of the State.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—And it is being controlled.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—In every session we have complained that the Huzur is not exercising any effective control over the departmental heads in the matter of communal representation in appointments and that they are carrying on things to their taste.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m. and re-assembled at 3 p. m. with the Diwan in the Chair.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, a challenge has been thrown out to me and I shall take it up.

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President.—I may interrupt the Hon'ble Member to remove a misconception regarding the question of appointment or rather transfer of a clerk from the Huzur to which the Hon'ble Member referred in the morning. I take complete responsibility for that transfer. What actually occurred is this. It became necessary to transfer a certain clerk from the Huzur. That clerk happened to be in a particular grade of service. A list of clerks competent to be transferred was prepared and I selected one from it. The question of communal representation cannot possibly arise in this, because the clerk who was transferred from the Huzur and the clerk who was transferred to the Huzur both belong to the same community.

I may say that my Secretary is the least communal and he looks after the interests of unrepresented communities with complete impartiality. (*Hear, hear*).

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Sir, I thank you for the kind statement. I am the last man to attack any officer personally. But I stick to my statement that there is some apprehension in certain quarters not quite unfounded that since the advent of the present Secretary to the Diwan, the Huzur is showing stronger symptoms of being a reserve. I shall substantiate it by the relative figures of 1105 Kumbham and 1109 Kumbham.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Please give the number of appointments that I have made. There is no use of comparing the figures of 1105 and those of 1109. There may be hundreds and hundreds of Nayars in 1105. I am not expected to remove them from office. Please take out the comparison of the figures there. That alone will be relevant.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—If the Secretary will wait till I finish the matter will be clear. Now, these are the relevant figures of 1105 Kumbham, and 1109 Kumbham. In 1105 Kumbham 14 Nayars, 8 Brahmins, 5 Christians, 2 Shenois and 1 Ezhuva. In 1109 Kumbham, 19 Nayars as against 14, 8 Brahmins as against 8, 5 Christians as against 5, 2 Shenois as against 2, 1 Ezhuva as against 1 and 1 Muhamadan. This makes it amply clear that the caste element has got a greater preponderance in the Huzur in 1109 than in 1105. I attach more importance to this, because the Huzur is the place which has been supplying the Heads of Departments which will be patent if you go into the official history of any head of department in the State. Except for some direct recruitment lately, all the Heads of Departments in the State except in the technical department, have been persons who have risen from clerkship in the Huzur. It is therefore that I thought it necessary to make pointed reference to the Huzur. We know it has become more and more difficult for departmental heads to make direct appointments in violation of

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the order of Government to give communal preference. Therefore, Sir, it is that, not only in one department but in several this sort of transfer is resorted. I don't refer to the case the President mentioned but I refer to the general aspect of the matter.

My time is over. I will hurry on. Sir, I said it is a very unpleasant matter to take part in a budget discussion. I know with which person I have had to cross words to-day and I know what his future will be. I hope what I spoke here ends here. We here are for the union of the people, for the united action of the people of the State, and to bring about such union we demand and that as much may be given to different communities as is possible in the matter of appointments, of course regard being had to efficiency. This efficiency has always been a bogey. Whenever any question of communal representation is brought up, the bugbear of efficiency comes up. We regard it as an excuse and not as a difficult matter to get over. I may casually refer to the appointments made in the College Department lately. I know that everyone of the appointees well deserves his place. But Sir, unfortunately very few of the unrepresented perhaps none were selected for appointment. It is possible for the rich to go to England for qualifications. It is for the Government to see whether the Indian qualifications which some of the applicants had—M. Scs. and other qualifications that Indians have achieved in India were sufficient for the purpose. These high-governing English and other foreign qualifications are unavailable to the poor people of the land.

One more word and I close. In regard to this united action of the people at large, a liberal franchise and the bestowing of more powers upon this House is absolutely necessary. The revision which we lately had was quite half-hearted. It is insufficient to enfranchise any large portion of the people of the land. In regard to powers, you have not given us any powers. The powers that we have were given to us with the Regulation; except that of nominating the Deputy President.

Now, as I have had occasion to remark yesterday, you take with the right hand sometimes what you give with the left. I may assure the Government that if you take us more and more into confidence, your fights will be easier and the strength of the people will be your strength.

One word more. Having come into touch with the wider world, we have to look to the industrial development of the land. There is the Harbour, there is the Broad-guage conversion almost over and we have taken up the electric scheme. I remember the words of Mr., now Sir, J. W. Bhore which he expressed on the occasion of his parting from Cochin years ago. If

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he schemes that I have formulated are developed, I have no hesitation in stating that in the not distant future Cochin will be the industrial centre of South India." Now, Sir, for that an Industrial Department is absolutely necessary. We have been dinning it into the ears of the Government. We have an Industrial Department in name and in paper. I was astonished yesterday to see that when an industrial matter came up for the appointment of a Select Committee, the name of the Director of Industries was left out.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I request the Chair to kindly allow me a few minutes to answer the charges levelled against me by the Hon'ble Member for Anthikad.

President.—Yes.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, I am very grateful to the Chair for having graciously allowed me out of all precedents to this special favour to answer this criticism from the Hon'ble Member for Anthikad. Though he feared to tread on details, I have no hesitation to do that. I have got all the details here noted down this afternoon. These are the appointments of clerks now in the Huzur Department that have been made by the Diwan on my suggestion. The names are.—

Kesavan, an Ezhuva,
Ahamed,
One P. L. Joseph,
V. Madhavan Nayar from the Barber community,
N. I. Joseph,
One Gangadharan, an Ezhuva,
One Paul,
P. K. Narayanan,
Another Narayanan,
One Velayudhan from a Barber community,
One Chandy who is the son of the retired Superintendent of Anchal,
One K. A. Achyuta Menon who was appointed during the period of the acting Diwan-ship of Mr. Kasturiranga Ayyar and about which there was a lot of criticism in this Council and I may also say he is one of the best clerks in the Huzur Secretariat,
One Gopalan Asari from the Goldsmith's community, and
One Chakiar.

From these appointments the House may judge how many of these are from privileged communities or communities which it is alleged that I have an affinity by birth or by relation. These are any way appointments made by the Diwan, though on my recommendation. I would read out some other names which

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have been made on my own responsibility and without taking the sanction of any other superior authority. These are the appointments in the lower grades of the clerical establishment of the Press. The Hon'ble Member for South Ezhuvas, Mr. Ayyappan, has sent a question to know the appointments made by each of the present Heads of Departments from the several communities. That will be answered in a few days. Though I am anticipating that answer so far as my department is concerned, I think it will be relevant here to quote the appointments made by me in the Press.—

Ezhuvas	7
Velan	1
Valan	1
Arayan	1
Kanakkan	1
Kudimichetti	1
Christians	7
Muhammadan	1
Jew	1
Gowda Saraswath Brahmin	1

These are the appointments made on my own responsibility without taking any sanction. Having given this figures I hope that this House will be convinced that this charge is absolutely unfounded. Of course the Hon'ble Member for Anthikad has been referring to me on more than one occasion in the previous instances as well. I do not have any grumbling against him. He is only doing his public duty here. Although I come from a privileged house I know its responsibilities and in my public as well as in my private duties I have always kept these responsibilities fully well in mind. I may also assure the Hon'ble Member for Anthikad that he, should not in the least, be afraid of any harm from me.

Further, Sir, it is absolutely clear now that there is no logic by way of reason in these charges that have been framed against me to-day and were tried to be framed against me on previous occasions.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Sir, we are sorely disappointed with the result of our administration for the last three years. We had expected great things from you; Sir, and hailed your advent here with feelings of great relief and unmixed joy. We find to-day the whole State greaning in the grip of acute economic depression. Prices for paddy and cocoanuts, the staple products of our State, have gone down to an unheard-of extent so much so, that the crops harvested are hardly sufficient to pay Government revenues. The ryots have begun seriously to consider whether it is worthwhile to cultivate at all. To add

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to this overwhelming distress, a new tax, the income-tax has been imposed, at this critical juncture. The remission of 12½ per cent proposed to be given in the land revenue is quite inadequate when we take into account the heavy fall in prices: No other provision is seen to have been made to save the ryots from this overwhelming distress in the present budget. The Government apparently goes on unmoved and take up huge projects of doubtful utility and costly works—luxuries which can conveniently await better times. The 4 lakhs proposed to be spent for electrifying Trichur and Ernakulam can be better employed in giving relief to the ryots.

2. The offer to grant loans on easy terms to the agriculturists and the attempt at reducing rates of interest by artificial means are only patch works which will not do any lasting good. Government should deem it their duty to help the agriculturist to realise the best price for his products. He should be enabled to get rid of the middleman by teaching him to deal with his products on a co-operative principle. Cheap manure should be supplied to all villages, through the local village officers. He should be taught the ways and means of improving the quality and quantity of the yield. Of late, we have been hearing cries for building a high tariff wall against the import of cheap Ceylon copra. Whether we would succeed in this or not, time alone can decide. But why rest all our hopes upon its success? Why not make some experiments to see whether sugar, candles, soaps, etc., cannot be made from cocoanut products? In Travancore, they have a sugar factory. Why not send some of our Chemistry Graduates to study sugar technology? Why is it that no provision is made in the Maharaja's College to teach applied Chemistry? It is high time that we should think of making the best use of our staple products.

3. The complaint incessantly raised in and outside this Council about the unbearable burden of a top-heavy administration was never seriously attended to. A very moderate cut in the salaries of our officials was withdrawn with undue haste and profuse apologies. When the purchasing power of the rupee has increased three-fold, the officers who are paid in money get their pay enhanced to that extent. We should not forget that the pay has been fixed with reference to the cost of living obtaining at the time. How the Government then is justified in maintaining the old scale of pay passes my comprehension. While I was discussing some of the measures suggested by various people to give relief to the hard-hit agriculturist, one of our highly placed Government officials advocated that the debts should be scaled down in proportion to the fall in prices. Whether the

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proposal is feasible or acceptable is a different matter. Is it not an unassailable argument so far as the pay of the Government officials is concerned. Even if the cut entails some hardship on them, they suffer with their countrymen. A cut of 33¼ per cent to-day in the salaries of officials drawing a pay of Rs. 200 and above will only be just and proper and in keeping with the increased purchasing power of the rupee. In this connection, the resolution passed by the Mysore Legislative Council at its last sitting, recommending a graded cut of 15 to 33½ per cent in the salaries of officials drawing Rs. 200 above is noteworthy. Their President at the close of the Session stated that the Government were engaged in revising the scale of pay in the various departments and in reducing the number of posts wherever possible. He stated "several important departments have already been examined and the scales of pay of those departments have been reviewed so as to effect substantial reduction in expenditure." According to him, the savings effected thus, will amount roughly to 4 lakhs of rupees. The report of a simple expedient adopted by Signor Mussolini in Italy to save 600 millions Lire of Public expenditure deserves our profound attention. He instructed all departments to classify expenditure under 3 headings—indispensable, necessary and useful. The Duce scrapped the *useful* section and pranned the *necessary*. Has our Government bestowed any thought upon retrenchment of their ever increasing expenditure on the various departments? If so, what is the outcome of their scrutiny? I do not think that our Government has yet realised the necessity for doing so. The fundamental principle that the Government exists for the protection and well-being of the subjects is forgotten and they appear to be satisfied if they can find the wherewithal to fatten an already over-paid official staff. There is nothing to wonder. A Government irresponsible to the people, have only their own sense of justice and fairplay to control their actions. Under the circumstances, their responsibility is all the greater, and any further inaction on their part will lead the public only to one conclusion—that they are too self-centred to do the rightful thing.

The year's budget ought to reflect the economic position of the country. The budget before us, on scrutiny, is found to be alike in all material particulars with the previous ones presented to us. I was not able to find any original schemes framed or policy altered to suit the changed conditions. Questions like the Agricultural Indebtedness—the employment problem specially among the educated section of the people, these and other equally important problems do not at all appear to have been tackled.

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To crown all, the cry for communal representation in the State service has been encouraged, fostered and developed to such an extent that the service is fast losing its name for efficiency and impartiality. There is nothing to wonder at this state of things. The moment a vacancy occurs or a new appointment has to be made, the various communities champion the cause of persons from their own communities and ultimately the nominee of one of them is selected. There is nothing strange, if he believes that he owes the appointment to the stout fight put up for him by his own community. Such a person when he has to decide questions between persons belonging to his own community and those outside it, may naturally have an inclination to favour the one belonging to his own community.

A new principle of communal representation according to population is sought to be introduced. We have not been able to understand the connection that exists between the population of each community and the number of officials to be selected therefrom. It can be argued with equal force that the proportion should be should be struck on the basis of the cattle owned by each community. It is the educated and intelligent section of each community that can ever be usefull in this connection. We can understand the justice of the claim if representation is to be regulated according to the Revenue contributed by each community for the upkeep of the Government. The only safe and practical course to be adopted is to select the most efficient candidate irrespective of caste, creed or colour. The pernicious principle of communal representation, if allowed, to guide the choice, will certainly land us in endless trouble. Efficiency and the impartial administration of the country will be a thing of the past. I wonder, how the present Government with a member of the I. C. S. at its head can ever think of such a system. Our sister State of Travancore has, it appears, given it up as soon as the idea was conceived. Mysore has definitely refused to consider it at all. (*No, No*). If such comparatively big States like Mysore and Travancore can carry on the administration without a Service Commission I do not know why it should be otherwise here: The idea of having one for our tiny State with such few appointments to make yearly, seems to be uncalled for and absolutely unnecessary. It will only perpetuate the differences among the various communities. Any formula now accepted as to communal rotation will be a source of constant trouble to the Government. Agitation will thenceforward be to get the quota changed in favour of each community. The only tangible result will be the creation of an august Body and the yearly expenditure of a pretty big amount.

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With reference to the judiciary, the absence of a Marumakkathayam Judge in the Chief Court is being felt keenly by a large section of the public. The agitation on this account fell on deaf ears. The recent appointment of a temporary Judge to the Chief Court was made in defiance of Public Opinion. There was absolutely no justification for the Government for ignoring the claims of the local Bar. Being a temporary appointment, the Government could have secured the services of either retired Government servants here, whose capacity was beyond question or senior practising Vakils, who were available for the purpose. The said appointment has created discontent in the local bar and alienated the sympathies of a large section of His Highness' subjects.

Coming to the Harbour and the Railways, we are absolutely in the dark as to what is going on. The communique recently published by the Government does not give us any more information than what we were able to gather from the papers. Questions that vitally affect the future development and prosperity of our State are being discussed and settled behind our back. If the Government take the public into confidence, they can rely upon their support in their fight with the Paramount power and the unanimous support of the Representative of the people here will certainly carry weight with the British Government. In this connection, I would like to point out to the Government that their negligence to secure a proportionate number of the appointments for the subjects of the State in both these concerns is highly culpable, especially in these days of unemployment and acute depression. If a strong fight is put on this behalf, tangible results ought to follow.

Again, the time-tables of our Trains are being changed often and in doing so, the convenience of the Cochin Public is never consulted or thought of. If the Diwan takes an active part in the deliberations of the Railway Board, he can do a lot to mitigate these evils.

Sir, the ways of the Cochin Government are inscrutable. The Government appointed a Franchise Committee consisting of both officials and non-officials. As soon as their report was received and without waiting for the opinion of the public on it, the Government appears to have appointed another committee consisting of Government Officials alone whose report was published soon after with the orders of the Government thereon. Why the Government should first appoint a well represented committee of officials and non-officials to advise them and then spontaneously appoint another official committee to scrutinise and modify it passes comprehension. Why the public were denied an opportunity to have their say on a measure profoundly

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affecting their rights and privileges is also not known. What the effect of the recommendations of the second committee on the report of the first and how it has merely favoured one particular community by the re-arrangements of constituencies is widely realised by this time. The Government's action with reference to the Educational Survey Report and the recommendations of the S. K. Committee serves as a contrast. The Survey report carefully prepared by the Director of Public Instruction was scrutinised by a committee appointed by the Government who took evidence and themselves gathered first-hand information by visiting various schools. Still, the Government could not make up their mind as to what should be done. The reports carefully prepared by Educational Experts were placed before us for discussion. The difference in the treatment meted out to the two most important subjects deserves our profound attention and I hope the Hon'ble Members will find out the reason for the same.

Although the Government were able to provide 4 lakhs of rupees for the Electrification of Trichur and Trichur luxuries, they have not been able to provide for works of irrigation urgently required for the protection of the ryots. The public of Kureekkad, Thiruvamkulam, Thekkumbhagam and Nadamel were crying for the opening of a canal for a very long time to prevent floods. A resolution was moved here during the last budget session on the subject. The Government undertook to investigate the question without loss of time and commence the work. They did nothing. I sent in a number of questions on the subject for the Makaram sitting. Then the investigation was ordered and the Government in answer to a supplementary question stated that the investigation will be completed before the monsoon period. In the budget before us, no provision is seen to have been made. The Government was convinced ago that the work was urgently needed. I hope the Government will find its way to go on with the work next year itself.

മിസ്റ്റർ ടി. കെ. നായർ.— സർ, ബഡ്ജറ്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു സംസാരിയ്ക്കുണ്ടതായ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ പഞ്ചായത്തു തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു വിഷയത്തിലുള്ള തെറ്റുകളെ പറ്റിയും, മുനിസിപ്പൽ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു വിഷയത്തിലുള്ള തെറ്റുകളെ പറ്റിയും മറ്റുമുള്ള സംഗതികം ഇവിടെ പറയാമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി എനിയ്ക്കു് ഇന്നാണു മനസ്സിലായതു്. ഇതിനെ പറ്റി പാട്ടയായിട്ടു മലയാളത്തിൽ പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ "അങ്ങാടിയിൽ തോറ്റതിനു് അമ്മയോടു്" എന്ന പഴമൊഴിപോലിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. പിന്നെ ഈ നിയമസഭാ തിരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിൽ തോറ്റുപോയാൽ പറയുവാൻ ഒരു സ്ഥലം നിശ്ചയിയ്ക്കാത്തതു് ഈ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സ്

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കുതമെന്നേ പറയുവാനുള്ളു. അതോടുകൂടിതന്നെ ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവൃത്തികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എന്തെങ്കിലും അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥ സാമാജികന്മാർക്കു പറയാം, നിഷ്കൃഷ്ടിയ്ക്കാം, നിബന്ധിയ്ക്കാമെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ നേരെ വല്ല കാലുഷ്യമോ, ശങ്കയോ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതുകൂടി തീർക്കുവാനുള്ള ഒരു പ്രസംഗമാണു് ബഡ്ജറ്റു പ്രസംഗമെന്നു് ഞാൻ പുതുതായിട്ടാണു ധരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അന്തിക്കാട്ടു മെമ്പർ ഈ സംഗതി കൊച്ചിനിയമസഭയിലെ അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥമെമ്പർമാർക്കു ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെടുത്തിതന്നതിൽ ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകൾ ഹജൂരാപ്പീസിൽ ചാജ്ജേടുത്തതിനുശേഷം അദ്ദേഹം സ്വന്തമായി നിയമിച്ചവരുടെ കൂട്ടത്തിൽ ഒരു നായരെയെങ്കിലും കാണാത്തതിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു. നേരെമറിച്ചു് അദ്ദേഹം പറഞ്ഞതു മുഴുവൻ ഞാൻ പറയേണ്ടിയിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മനസ്ഥിതിഎനിയ്ക്കില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട സിക്രട്ടറി അവർകളെ തെറ്റുകാരനാക്കുന്നില്ല. നായന്മാരുടെ യോഗ്യതയ്ക്കനുസരിച്ചു നായന്മാക്കു കൊടുത്താൽ മതിയെന്നേ എനിയ്ക്കപേക്ഷയുള്ളു. അതിലേയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തോടോ മറ്റുള്ളവരോടോ ശുപാൎശ ചെയ്വാനും വിചാരിയ്ക്കുന്നില്ല.

ഇനി ബഡ്ജറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് നാലു വാക്കു പറയാതെ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ബഡ്ജറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇന്നു വളരെ തൊട്ടു സംസാരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള മെമ്പർമാരെല്ലാം ഫൈനാൻസു മെമ്പരെയാണു് മുഴുവൻ കുറ്റപ്പെടുത്തി പറഞ്ഞതു്. വാസ്തവത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം നിരപരാധിയാണു്. ഇതൊക്കെ കേട്ടിട്ടു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ മുഖം ചിലപ്പോൾ വാടുന്നുണ്ടു്; കരുങ്കുന്നുണ്ടു്; ഇടയ്ക്കിടെ ചില സ്മോളങ്ങളും വരുന്നുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു് എന്തൊക്കെയോ ചില കണക്കുകൾ റജൂരാഫീസിൽനിന്നും ടാബുലേറു ചെയ്തയക്കുന്നതു് ഫാറത്തിലാക്കി വയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള അധികാരം മാത്രമേയുള്ളു. അതിനുള്ള ശിക്ഷയാണു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു കിട്ടുന്നതു്.

ഈ ബഡ്ജറിൽ സ്വതേയുള്ള വരവു ചിലവുകളെ പറ്റീട്ടോ, വരവു കൂടുതലും ചിലവു കുറവും അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ചിലവു കൂടുതലും വരവു കുറവും ആണെന്നുള്ളതിനെ പറ്റീട്ടോ മറുപടിയൊന്നും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല. ബഡ്ജറു കയ്യിൽ കിട്ടിയാലുടനെ പുതുതായിട്ടു വല്ലതും ഉണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കുക; എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒന്നു കൊണ്ടുംതോറും ഉണ്ടാകാതിരിയ്ക്കയില്ല. അതുപോലെ ഇക്കൊല്ലവും ചിലതെല്ലാം കൂടുതലായികൊള്ളുവരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. $18\frac{3}{4}$ percent നികുതിയെ $12\frac{1}{2}$ percent ആക്കിയിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതായി കാ

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ണാനുണ്ട്. ഇനിയുത്തെ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ അതുംകൂടി നിങ്ങൾ മോഹിയ്ക്കുണ്ടായെന്നാണു പറയുന്നതു്. ഈ 12½ percent എങ്കിലും തരാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ സന്തോഷക്കാരും നന്ദിയുള്ളവരുമാണു്.

പിന്നെ ഒന്നു കണ്ടതു് അഗ്രികൾച്ചറൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിൽ ഒരു ട്രെയിനഡ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ നിയമിയ്ക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. മുന്നു കൊല്ലം മുമ്പു് ഈ സംഗതിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ദിവാൻജിയവർകളോടു നേരിട്ടു് ഒന്നിലധികം തവണ പറഞ്ഞ അവസരത്തിൽ ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൽ എക്സ്പിരിമെൻറായിട്ടു വച്ചിട്ടു കുറെ കാലമായി; അതു സക്സസ്സ് അല്ലെന്നുകണ്ടു വേണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ചു; അവിടെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു; ഇവിടെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു എന്നു മറുപടി പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അവിടെയെല്ലാം സക്സസ്സ് അല്ലെന്നു വന്നപ്പോൾ തീച്ചയായും കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തും അതു വരുത്തേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ലെന്നേ അതിനെ പറയാനുള്ളൂ എന്നിയ്ക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ.

പിന്നെ പ്രധാനമായിട്ടു് ഒന്നുള്ളതു്, ഹജൂരിൽ ഒരു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറു കൂട്ടി. ഒരു സൂപ്രണ്ടും നാലു ക്ലാർക്കന്മാരും റിക്കാർഡു ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ഷനും ഗുമസ്ഥന്മാരും അതിൽ വച്ചു. ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ഷനാണെല്ലോ അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അതിൽ എനിയ്ക്കും വളരെ സന്തോഷമുള്ള കാര്യമാണു്.

പബ്ലിക്കു് ഹെൽത്തിൽ സിനിമ, പാൽകൂടി എന്നിങ്ങനെ രണ്ടുമൂന്നിനങ്ങൾ കൂടുതലായി കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

പഞ്ചായത്തിൽ ഒരു വക്കു് സൂപ്രവൈസരുടെ നിയമനം പുതുതായിട്ടു ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ എനിയ്ക്കു സന്തോഷമുണ്ടു്. പഞ്ചായത്തുകാർക്കു് അതുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയുമുണ്ടു്.

പബ്ലിക്കു് വർക്സിൽ ഏലക്ട്രിഫിക്കേഷൻ രണ്ടു സ്ഥലത്തു നടപ്പാക്കുവാൻ തീച്ചയാക്കിക്കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്.

പോലീസിൽ ഒരു ട്രാഫിക്കു് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ വേണ്ടെന്നുവച്ചു. പിന്നെ കുറെ തോക്കുകളും കുന്തങ്ങളുമൊക്കെ വാങ്ങിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്.

ഇതെല്ലാമാണു് ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റു് ആകപ്പാടെ നോക്കിയതിൽ പുതുതായി കണ്ട വിഷയങ്ങൾ. ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചെല്ലാം എന്താണു പ്രസംഗിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതെന്നു് കൂടുതലായി യാതൊരു വിവരവും എനിയ്ക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടില്ല ഇതൊക്കെ വിട്ടാൽ മുമ്പുള്ളതിൽ നിങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതെല്ലാം നാട്ടുകാർക്കു സന്തോഷമാണെന്നേ ഈ ബഡ്ജറിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിയ്ക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ.

ഇനി പ്രധാനമായിട്ടുള്ള ചില പൊതുവിഷയങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ചു പറയാം. ഒന്നാമതായിട്ടു സ്റ്റോറ്റു് ലോണിൻറെ കാര്യമെടുക്കാം. ഇതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഫൈനാൻസു മെമ്പറുടെ ഇന്നലത്തെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽ നിന്നുതന്നെ ഒരു കണക്കു തന്നിട്ടുള്ളതു് എനിയ്ക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. 1109-ൽ 18 ലക്ഷത്തി ഒരായിരം ഉറുപ്പിക

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യാണ് 75 ലക്ഷം കടം വാങ്ങിയതിൽനിന്നും ചിലവായത്. ഈ 18 ലക്ഷത്തി ഓരായിരം ഉറുപ്പികയേ 1109 ലേയ്ക്ക് ആവശ്യമുള്ളു വെന്നു അറിഞ്ഞിരിയ്ക്കെ ഈ 75 ലക്ഷം രൂപാ കടം വാങ്ങിയതുതന്നെ തെറ്റ്. മുഴവൻ 5 percent പലിശയ്ക്കു കടം വാങ്ങിച്ചു. അതിനശേഷം ആ പണം എന്തു ചെയ്തു, എവിടെ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കൊടുത്തു എന്നുള്ള നാട്ടുകാരുടെ ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കും, നിരാശയ്ക്കും കുറവു വരുത്തുവാനായിട്ട് ഒരു പ്രസ്താവമെങ്കിലും പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്തുകണ്ടു. ആ പ്രസ്താവമെങ്കിലുകൊണ്ട് നാട്ടുകാരുടെ നിരാശതീർക്കുവാനായിട്ടുള്ളതൊന്നും കണ്ടില്ല. ആ പണമെല്ലാം രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ പലിശയ്ക്ക് ഏതോ ചില ബാങ്കുകളിൽ കൊടുത്തിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിലയിൽ ആവശ്യമില്ലാത്ത പലിശനഷ്ടം എന്തിനു വേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെൻറു സഹിച്ചു? 1110-ൽ ഈ ലോൺ വാങ്ങിച്ചാൽ മതിയായിരുന്നുതാനേ. നാം കൊടുക്കുന്ന പലിശയെങ്കിലും കിട്ടുവാൻ ശ്രമിയ്ക്കാതെ ഇതുമാതിരിയുള്ള നഷ്ടത്തിനുവേണ്ടി ഒരു വ്യാപാരം ചെയ്യേണ്ടിയിരുന്നില്ല. ബാങ്കുകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയ്ക്ക് ഏതേതു ബാങ്കുകളാണെന്നു പറയാത്തതും തെറ്റാണ്. ആ പ്രസ്താവമെങ്കിൽതന്നെ ഇന്നയിന്ന ബാങ്കുകളെന്നു പറയാമായിരുന്നു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു ചില ബാങ്കുകളോട് ഇൻറെറസ്റ്റ് ഉണ്ടെന്നു അറിയാതിരിയ്ക്കത്തക്ക അത്ര ബുദ്ധിഹീനന്മാരല്ല നാട്ടുകാർ. എങ്കിലും ചിലതൊക്കെ പുറത്തു കാണിയ്ക്കാതെ ഒരു പ്രസ്താവമെങ്കിലുമുള്ള നിലയിൽ എങ്കിലും നാട്ടുകാരെ അറിയിയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള വാസന ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു തോന്നിയതിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്.

ഇനി ഹാർബർ, റയിൽവെ എന്നിവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുകയാണെങ്കിൽ—പുറമെ കേൾക്കുന്ന പ്രസ്താവങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു മാത്രമേ ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിവുള്ളു.—അതിലേയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരുകോടി ഉറുപ്പികയോളം ചിലവാക്കിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഏതെങ്കിലും നിലയിൽ ഹാർബറിൻറെ IV സ്റ്റേജുംകൂടി പൂർത്തിയാക്കി അവസാനിപ്പിയ്ക്കുവാൻ ദിവാൻജിയവർകളോട് എനിയ്ക്കു പ്രത്യേകം ഒരപേക്ഷയുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം കൊച്ചീരാജ്യത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വളരെ ശ്രമിയ്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം കൊച്ചീരാജ്യക്കാർക്കുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറെ ശക്തിയുപയോഗിച്ച് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ ഭാവിശ്രേയസ്സിനെ നിലനിർത്തുവാൻ സാധിയ്ക്കുമോ എന്നു സംശയമുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയ്ക്ക് വീണസ്ഥലത്തു കിടന്നുകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ ഒന്ന് ഉരുളുകമാത്രമേ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളു. അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം ഇതുവരെ ചിലവാക്കിയതും ചിലവാക്കുവാനുള്ളതുമായ പണം മുഴവനും നഷ്ടമാകും.

പിന്നെ ഒരു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മാന്യൻ റയിൽവേയിൽ ന

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മ്മുടെ ആളുകളെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായി കിട്ടുവാൻ ശ്രമിയ്ക്കുന്നു മെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ പറ്റി ചില ഗവൺമെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടു ചോദിയ്ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. അവർ പറഞ്ഞതു് ആകെ പത്തോ പതിനാലോ സ്റ്റേഷൻകളേ ഈ കൊച്ചീസ്റ്റേറ്റിലുള്ളു; ഇന്നു് ഒരു കൊച്ചിനേറ്റിനെ അവിടെ വച്ചുവെങ്കിൽ നാളെ എത്രായിരമാളുകളാണു് അവിടെനിന്നു് ഇങ്ങോട്ടു വരിക; അവക്കെല്ലാം ഇവിടേയും ജോലി കൊടുക്കാമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തരക്കേടില്ല എന്നാണു്. എറണാകുളം റയിൽവേ സ്റ്റേഷനിൽ ഒരു കൊച്ചീക്കാരനുമില്ല. ഇടപ്പള്ളിയിലും അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ. ഈ സെയ്താൻഡ്വാൻ റയിൽവേ കമ്പനിയിൽ എത്രയെത്രയോ കൊച്ചീക്കാരുണ്ടു്. അവരെ ഈ 14 സ്റ്റേഷനുകളിലേയ്ക്കാക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്യാം. അല്ലാത്തപക്ഷം അവിടെ തൊടാതിരിയ്ക്കുകയാണു വേണ്ടതു്.

പിന്നെ ഒരു പ്രധാന വിഷയം പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു കമ്മീഷനാണു്. അതു് എത്രയും അടിയന്തിരമായിട്ടു് അവശ്യമുള്ളതാണെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അന്തിക്കാട്ടു മെമ്പർ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ ഇതിനുമുമ്പു് പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു് കമ്മീഷൻ വേണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു് ഇവിടെ ഒരു പ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. ഗവൺമെൻറിൽ നിന്നും അതു് യൂക്കാലിപ്റ്റസ് (സർവ്വരോഗകുലാന്തകൻ) ആണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞപ്പോൾ ഞാൻ അതു സമ്മതിച്ചു. ഇപ്പോൾ അതു എങ്ങിനെയെങ്കിലും ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നിരിയ്ക്കുമെന്നാണു് എൻറെ അറിവു്. ഈ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു് കമ്മിഷൻ കൊണ്ടല്ലേ ഈ ലഹളകളൊക്കെ നില്ക്കുവാൻ കഴിയുന്നതു്? അതു വന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വേറെ ഒരു ലഹളയ്ക്കുള്ള വഴിയായി. വേറെയും ഗവൺമെൻറുകൾ എന്താണു ചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്നതു്? ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെല്ലാം രാഷ്ട്രപ്രകാരം നടക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ സർവ്വ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കുംകൂടി ഒരു രൂപം ആദ്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കുക. അങ്ങിനെ ചെയ്താൽ അവർ അതനുസരിയ്ക്കുകയില്ലേ? പിന്നെ എന്തിനാണു് പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു കമ്മീഷൻറെ ആവശ്യം? ഒരാൾക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗം വേണമെങ്കിൽ അപ്പോൾ 12 ആളുകളുടെ അടുത്തു പോകേണ്ടിവരികയില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഒരുവഴി തീരെ തെറ്റാണെന്നാണു് എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇന്നു പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു് കമ്മിഷൻ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പല സ്ഥലങ്ങളും ഉണ്ടു്. ഇവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾ നടപ്പുള്ളതിലെന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു മാറ്റംകൊണ്ടു മാറ്റം വരുത്തണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു് കമ്മിഷൻ വയ്ക്കാതെതന്നെ ആദ്യം ഒരു രൂപം ഫ്രെയിം ചെയ്തു നോക്കുക; ആ രൂപപ്രകാരം ഗവൺമെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നടക്കുമോ എന്നു നോക്കുക; എന്നിട്ടും നടക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നു കണ്ടാൽ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവ്വീസു് കമ്മിഷൻ വേണമെന്നു വാശിപറയുക. ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ

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വേണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ അതിനു പ്രത്യേകം വേണ്ടേ അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ഈ അഭിപ്രായത്തെ തീരെ നിഷേധിക്കുന്നു.

ഇനി ഈ നാട്ടിലെ കർഷകന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോഴാണു് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിലേക്കു വലിയ അലോഹ്യമുള്ളതു്. അതു് അലോഹ്യമാണെന്നു വിചാരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിലും അതിനു മുൻപിലും ഇന്നത്തെ കർഷകന്മാരുടെ ധനസ്ഥിതിയെപറ്റിട്ടും അവരുടെ ഇൻഡെബ്ടഡ്നസ്സിനെ പറ്റിട്ടും ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ധരിച്ചിട്ടാണു് അവർക്കുവേണ്ടി അഞ്ചുലക്ഷം രൂപാകൊടുക്കാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞതു്. ദിവാൻപേഷ്കാരവർകൾ ഈ കർഷകന്മാരുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ ശ്രദ്ധവെച്ചു വേലചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു് അതുകൊണ്ടറിയാം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിൻറെ സ്വന്ന്യായങ്ങളും കേട്ടതിൽനിന്നും കൂടുതലായി ശ്രദ്ധപതിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നും തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു്. എങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആത്യാവശ്യങ്ങളൊന്നും നടക്കുന്നില്ല. ഇതിലദ്ദേഹം നിഷ്കർഷ വയ്ക്കുന്നില്ലെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല എങ്കിലും തരത്തിൽ വിലക്കുമ്പോൾ വല്ലതും തരണമെന്നേ പറയുന്നുള്ളു. ഈ അഞ്ചു ലക്ഷം കൊണ്ടു് മതിയാകയില്ല; ഇനിയൊരു ഇരുപത്തഞ്ചുലക്ഷംകൂടി വേണമെന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു തന്നെ ഇപ്പോൾ ബോദ്ധ്യം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ കുറച്ചുകൂടി ജാഗ്രതവെച്ചാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു് അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു് എനിയ്ക്കൊരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

ഇത്തവണ കൌൺസിൽമെമ്പരുടെ പ്രസംഗത്തിൽനിന്നും —എക്കണോമിക്കു സർവ്വേ നടക്കുന്നുണ്ടല്ലോ; അതു് ഒരു വില്ലേജിലോ, രണ്ടു വില്ലേജിലോ നടത്തിയിട്ടു് അവസാനിപ്പിക്കുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ആ എക്കണോമിക്കു സർവ്വേ 1110ലും കൂടി കണ്ടിന്യു ചെയ്യുവാൻ പോകുന്നുവെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതിൻറെ ആവശ്യമെന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. കൊച്ചീരാജ്യം ഒട്ടാകെയുള്ള സർവ്വേ നടത്തിയതിനുശേഷമാണോ അതിൻറെ ഗുണങ്ങൾ നാട്ടുകാരെ അനുഭവിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതു്? ഒരു ലാൻറുമാർട്ട്ഗേജു് ബാങ്കു തുടങ്ങണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ അവസരത്തിൽ എക്കണോമിക്കു സർവ്വേ റിപ്പോർട്ടു് നോക്കി ചെയ്യാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിരുന്നു. അതിൻറെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു് വരുത്തി ലാൻറുമാർട്ട്ഗേജു് ബാങ്കുണ്ടാക്കാമെന്നാണോ വിചാരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതു്? ഇനി ഒരു കൊല്ലം കൂടി സർവ്വേ നടത്തുവാൻ വേണമെന്നു പറയുന്നു അതു് കഴിയുമ്പോൾ പിന്നെയും ഒരു കൊല്ലം കൂടി നീട്ടുവാൻ സർവ്വേ ചെയ്യുന്ന ആളുകളും ഗവർമ്മെൻറും വിചാരിച്ചാൽ സാധിക്കയില്ലേ? ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കൊല്ലംകൂടി നീട്ടുന്നതായിട്ടുമാത്രം ഇതിൽ കാണുവാനുണ്ടു്. ഇതിൻറെ ഒക്കെ ഉദ്ദേശമെന്താണെന്നു എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. അവസാനത്തിൽ ലാൻറുമാർട്ട്ഗേജു് ബാങ്കു് അടുത്തകാലത്തെങ്ങും ഉണ്ടാകുകയില്ലെന്നു തീർച്ചയായിട്ടു

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ണ്ട്. അതു വന്നാലേ രക്ഷയുള്ളൂ ഈ നാട്ടുകാക്കെന്നു് പല അവ
സരങ്ങളിലും, അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം മൂലവും ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ധ
രിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അന്നൊക്കെ പാഞ്ഞതു് സ്വപ്നം നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്; അ
തു കഴിയട്ടെ എന്നാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു കൊല്ലം കൂടി വേണമെന്നു
പറയുന്നു. ഇതുവരെ മൂന്നുകൊല്ലം സ്വപ്നം നടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണോ
യുന്നതു്. ഇനിയും അതുകൂടാതെ കഴിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി അവരുടെ
റിപ്പോർട്ടവരുത്തി എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യാൽ വലിയ ഗുണമൊന്നു
മുണ്ടാകാനില്ലെങ്കിലും ആവശ്യമില്ലാതെ കമ്മിറാക്കുവേണ്ടി ചില
വിട്ടന പണം ആദായമാകുമല്ലോ. എന്നുമാത്രമേ എനിക്കു പറയു
വാനുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ സംഗതികളെല്ലാം ഒന്നുകൂടി ആലോ
ചിച്ചിട്ടു് കണ്ടിന്യൂ ചെയ്യേണ്ട കാര്യത്തിൽ ഓർഡർ കൊടുക്കണ
മെന്നു് എനിക്കൊരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്.

ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സ്പീച്ചിൽ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഭാഗ
ത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്കു വളരെ സുഖമായിട്ടു തോന്നു
ന്നുണ്ടു്. ഈ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യക്കാർക്കും അടുത്തുള്ളവർക്കും കൂടി അ
ശ്വാസം വരത്തക്ക ചില പൊടിക്കൈകളെല്ലാം അതിൽ വ
ച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്വന്തം കൃതിയാണു്. ബാ
ക്കിയുള്ളതു് അതുമിതുമെല്ലാം കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അദ്ദേഹ
ത്തിനും ഈ നാട്ടുകാർക്കും, നിയമസഭാ സാമാജികന്മാർക്കും സമാ
ധാനത്തിനുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള പത്തിരുപതു വാചകങ്ങൾ ഇതിന്റെ
അവസാനത്തിലുണ്ടു്. അതു് ഞങ്ങൾ ദിവസവും പത്തോ ഇരു
പതോ പ്രാവശ്യം വായിച്ചു സമാധാനം വരുത്തുവാനായിട്ടു ശ്ര
മിച്ചുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു് അദ്ദേഹത്തോടു പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടു് ഞാൻ ത
ല്ക്കാലം വരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Mr. President, Sir, I don't find much reason either to congratulate the Government or to denounce them on thebudget they have made this time too. There is, however, one feature of the budget, which, to me at least, seems rather inexplicable. That feature is that the income side of the budget does not show any reduction at all. Considering that we are in the days of depression and that the incomes of private people have gone down a good deal, one would have expected that fact to be reflected in the receipt side of the Government Budget as well. But that fact is not reflected at all here. We find the full amount of income budgetted year after year. Only one inference is possible from this and that is that the Government are exacting their dues even to the last pie, rigorously and inexorably. No remission is given, except in the Land Revenue demand, wherein for the current year and for the coming year certain reductions have been generously made. But what about the other items of revenue, such as salt, abkari, ganja, tobacco, opium, stamps, registration, etc. In these and such

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other items, there is practically no reduction at all, which shows that no relief has been given to the people in these directions, and that the Government demand is continuing at the same old level as it was before the days of depression.

While thus the receipt side does not reflect any effect of the depression, the disbursement side also is equally untouched by it. The salaries, if anything, are on the increase and the cut which was imposed on there was withdrawn and the motive of the cut confused, perhaps intentionally. The motive of the cut was not to avoid a deficit budget, but just to show that the Government Officers too would bear a share of the huge economic loss which has fallen upon the people of the land as a result of the present depression. Many of the Hon'ble Members have already referred to the economic aspect of the question, to the purchasing power of the rupee and so on; and therefore I do not want to repeat those arguments here. But what I want to say is that there was not the least justification for doing away with the cut, especially when even in private institutions they are still maintaining the cut. Now, if at all a cut has to be imposed, it ought to be on the salaries of the highly paid officers of the Government, who should be the first to make the generous sacrifice. The fact that they have not made this sacrifice shows that the acuteness of the depression has not gone home to them. Thus it is clear that the economic depression through which the country is passing has not produced any effect at all on the disbursement side of the budget of the Government.

While on this question of Land Revenue remission, I have to make a reference to the Devaswams. I am told that any reference to them would be out of order here; that they could not form the subject matter of any question or discussion. But I think in a general speech of the budget we are allowed to make some reference even to the Devaswams. I believe I shall not be wrong if I say that the Devaswams have got a double capacity. They are religious associations, no doubt; but as long as they are holding land, they have got the capacity of the land-holder also, and they come into relations with the people in that capacity. I find the members of the Royal Family also come into relations with the people in that capacity; and I think they also have to pay taxes for the lands they hold and to deal with their tenants in accordance with the laws of the land. I suppose I am correct. Similarly, Devaswams also have the land-holder's capacity. They are the jenmies and if the other jenmies have been asked to give the benefit of the tax remission to their tenants, surely the Devaswams also should be directed to give the benefit of the reduction to their tenants too. I had asked a few questions on this subject, but I received a

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letter to the effect that those questions could not be allowed. Well, I do not want to question the ruling. But I respectfully beg to submit that there is a double capacity for Devaswams and churches, and that in as much as they are land-holding institutions, they will have also to abide by all the responsibilities of such a social position. I would earnestly request the Government therefore to take such steps as would secure to the Devaswam tenants also the benefit of the remission so generously sanctioned by them.

Another thing on which I wish to speak to-day is the question of the double crop assessment again. We passed a resolution twice in this Council recommending the abolition of the occasional second crop assessment, and that too by the unanimous vote of the non-official Members ; and yet the Government have cruelly brushed aside our recommendation. I fail to see what respect the Government have for the wishes of this Council for the considered opinions of the accredited representatives of the people of this State. I have again and again shown conclusively, at least to the non-official members of this House, that this occasional double crop assessment is the most corrupt and corrupting element in the whole system of land revenue assessment,—the most vexatious, the most troublesome to the cultivators of the land ; and for all that it brings in only a poor pittance of five or six thousand rupees which the Government can very well forego, considering the abnoxious implications of this iniquitous impost. The Government have not done that. Certain arguments, of course, were advanced by them when they rejected the Resolutions of this House ; but those arguments would not stand scrutiny. I am not going to enter into those arguments at present for want of time.

Another point I wish to bring to your attention in regard to this double crop assessment, the cultivators used to get the benefit of some laxity on the part of the revenue officers. It may not have been a justifiable benefit. But all the same it is true that all the lands under double crop were not assessed. It was a time honoured practice. But ever since a reference was made on the floor of this House to the smallness of the Governments' income from this source, as an argument for its abolition, the collection has been very rigorous ; and this year I think it was done with a vengeance. It has gone even to the other extreme of assessing in many instances, lands which were not under a second crop. I have come across several cases in which village officers included under their assessment lands on which no second crop was raised during the year. In some of these cases at least, the truth came out on personal enquiry by the Tahsildars ; and the village officers

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concerned has to be rebuked even on the spot itself. This, Sir, is only one of the many objectionable features of this iniquitous impost. There are many others besides these, I believe, are numerous and strong enough to convince the Government of the justice of our demand for the abolition of occasional second crop assessment ; and I hope the Government will, without further delay, free the people from this iniquitous and vexatious impost.

Before proceeding to the other Departments I would say just one word about some of the general aspects of our administration. It has always been a mystery to me why we in Cochin are so far behind the British Indian provinces in the matter of constitutional development. Our Council has still to gain many of the privileges which similar councils are enjoying in British India. Again in most of the provinces there are ministries, executive councils and other administrative bodies of an advanced character. We have been crying for an Executive Council ever so many times and yet it has been denied to us till now. Can any one argue that we are intellectually less gifted, economically poorer, or politically less developed than the people of the British India Provinces? The very opposite is the fact : in all those respects we are far ahead of our brethren in many of the provinces of British India. Even British authorities have admitted this fact. The Davidson Committee have given a very high compliment to Travancore and Cochin on the high degree of mass literacy, educational progress attained by the people of these States. Thus it comes to this that while we are intellectually, economically and even politically more developed, we get only less, yes much less, of political rights than our brethren in British India. The whole thing appears to be an enigma. If it were the other way I could have understood it. In British India it is a foreign Government that is in authority and perhaps they might have some misgivings in granting more and more power to the people. But in the Indian States we have got our own Rulers who ought to be and are very generous, and who want to associate the people more and more with them in the work of administration. And they have nothing to fear from us. In point of loyalty, in point of enthusiasm for safeguarding the interests of the Royal House, I am sure, we yield to none and this fact has been again and again made clear by the Hon'ble Members on this side of the House. Under these circumstances I fail to see why the progressive State of Cochin should be left so far behind the British Indian Provinces in the matter of constitutional development.

Yet another feature of our General Administration is the attitude adopted by the Government on the question of communal

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representation. To this reference has already been made by many of the Hon'ble Members here. It comes up again and again, it is an oft-repeated cry and I believe it will be repeated still until the grievance is redressed. Some of the Hon'ble Members have brought out the same old argument of efficiency to oppose this just claim of communal representation. I have tried time and again to bring home to the Hon'ble Members of this House that there are two kinds of efficiency, the narrow technical efficiency which consists in an officer being able to show a quick despatch of every day business and to leave no arrears in his routine work. That kind of effeciency is very much prized in official circles. But there is another kind of efficiency, a broader one which consists in the ability to keep the people satisfied, in the ability to make them contented and happy. That kind of efficiency could be attained only if the Government is fully representative of all the sections of the people. As long as we have the people divided into various communities, so long the Government too should be representative of these communities, we find in this Council representatives of all communities; and this principle of communal representation in regard to the composition of this Council, is officially recognised and implemented. In regard to the services also Government have accepted the same principle, and even promised the appointment of Service Commission. But this promise has not yet been fulfilled. Worse still, we find some of the Hon'ble Members here stoutly opposing the appointment of such a Commission. The position, Sir, is briefly this: There are some people who choose to think that a Service Commission is not going to do wonders. Granted. But there are others who honestly think that the appointment of such a Commission will go a pretty long way in solving the communal problem in the State. Be it noted that even the opponents of the Commission could not content that it will make matters worse. If such be the case, why should they not, I ask, allow those who pray for a Commission to have the benefit of a trial at least? The truth, therefore, is that those who pretend to doubt the efficacy of a Service Commission, are really affraid of the salutary reform that would be effected by such a recruiting agency. The very fierceness of their opposition shows that they are really afraid that a Public Service Commission working on proper lines, would do away with the privileged position that they are now engaging. Otherwise, I fail to see why there should be such fierce opposition to its appointment, especially when it is not going to cost the Government any big amount. It is not proposed to pay the Commissioners any fat salaries: they would be paid only some sitting fee and travelling allowance which after all would only amount to a paltry sum.

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Coming now and the working of some of the departments, my great complaint against the Government is in regard to their development activities. They must show a little more imagination and enterprise in the handling of the development departments. I do not want to enter into details. There is the Agricultural Department. We have been providing for it thousands and thousands of rupees year after year in our Budget estimates; but I should think that all this money has been a waste so far as the agricultural development of this country is concerned. Various experiments have been conducted by the Department and year after year the Administration Reports are full of the success of these and various other works done for the betterment of the villagers. But are these villagers in any way benefited by these things? I have still to come across a villager who could tell me that he has been in any way benefited in his work by the Agricultural Department. While talking on this question with a high officer, I was told that the people were not co-operating with the Agricultural Department. That seems to be the complaint also in the Co-operative Department. But I think it is the duty of the Government officers to bring about this co-operation. How are they managing it in other countries. Are the people here in any way fundamentally different from people of those countries? If our Government then have failed to secure popular co-operation, I should think that they have failed in one of their fundamental duties. All told, therefore, it comes to this that the Agricultural Department has so far been a mere waste of precious public money.

At one time we had an Industries Department. And it has come to a very sad fate owing to the stepmotherly attitude taken up by the Government towards the industrial department of the State. And the department itself has been tacked on to the tail of another department. To put it briefly, both in regard to the development of cottage industries and of large scale capitalistic industries Government have so far done very little, indeed.

Coming to Commerce, Cochin is beautifully situated as regards facilities for the development of maritime commerce. These facilities, if properly used, would have enabled us to control a good deal of the foreign trade of the country. But here again it is to be regretted that the Government have not hitherto done anything substantial, with the result that even now the sea-borne trade of the country is entirely in foreign hands.

Another development department is the Co-operative Department. Here we have the Finance Members' certificate that there has been a rapid growth in the activities of this department. But again I fail to find any progress in this

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direction, if we are to gauge it by the public opinion prevalent in the country. Indeed, people have come to regard the word "Kopratt as synonym for anything that is mismanaged. Several Hon'ble Members of this Council have expressed in very strong terms their dissatisfaction with the working of this department. It had an opportunity in these days of depression to show what an amount of valuable service it could do to the people. It could have organised sale societies so as to secure to the farmers better prices for their agricultural products. It could have opened co-operative stores. It could have started a Land Mortgage Bank. But very little has been done in any of these directions, calculated to ameliorate the condition of the poor agriculturists.

I should think that it is want of boldness, initiative and enterprise that is standing in the way of the Government. Want of funds is an oft-repeated excuse. But for purposes of constructive activities which would be paying in the long-run, they could and should borrow boldly and freely. It is in this way that other Governments have been trying to find money. The Government of India have been borrowing money freely for almost all their constructive schemes. England has got a national debt of eight thousand-million pounds. I do not think there is any harm in borrowing money when there is a fair prospect of getting a good return on the investment. If we are satisfied that the project in hand is a sound business proposition we may borrow as much money as we could get, and experience has shown that we can get a good deal. I would request the Government not to fight shy of a national debt. It is even considered to be one of the features of a civilised Government to have a national debt. I think that even the 4 lakhs provided for electric installations in Trichur and Ernakulam should not be met from current revenues. It should be set down as capital expenditure and met either from our accumulated surplus or from borrowed funds.

More money again has to be spent on rural communications. Main trunk roads we have enough. But without feeder roads penetrating into the villages and fields, these trunk roads would be of little service to our agricultural folk.

There is again the case of the Ayurvedic Vaidiasalas. So far very little has been spent upon them. The Finance Member has tried to repudiate the suggestion that his department is the "Cinderella" of the Government. He says that the very opening of the department is sufficient proof to the contrary. True the department is opened alright, but our complaint is that this department is treated as the "Cinderella" of the Government. When was it opened? Only last year. After so many years of clamour, and complaint it has been opened; and now look at the

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treatment meted out to it! A very large amount is spent annually on the Allopathic Hospitals and Dispensaries of our State. At least a fair percentage of that should be set apart for Ayurveda, seeing that this indigenous system is so cheap, so popular and so efficient. Perhaps the allopathic doctors may differ from me. But the concensus of opinion in the country is that perhaps the Ayurvedic system is fundamentally even more efficient than the Allopathic system. The only thing required is development and systematisation.

Now a word, Sir, on certain remarks made on some of the officers sitting on the Treasury Bench. Certain strictures have been made—censures and sweeping remarks. The Hon'ble Member for Trichur made a tirade against the Revenue Department and the Secretary to the Diwan. My experience shows that when a man prefaces a speech with the remark that he has no axe to grind, we may be sure that he has really some axe or other to grind. Otherwise, why should he go out of his way to make that unnecessary remark? Of course, there may be exceptions. But as a rule when a man makes that preface, common experience would tell us that he has got certain axes to grind. Some look at the charges levelled! The Revenue Department has at its head one of the most energetic of officers, very popular, very sympathetic, one who knows and appreciates the opinions and wishes of the people, who leaves no stone unturned to do the best he can. And yet the Hon'ble Member for Trichur says that of late lethargy has crept into this department. Not to say falsehood, can exaggeration, can misrepresentation of facts go further than that? Then again, the same charge of lethargy and mismanagement was made against the Huzur Secretariat. I would only say that I have yet to find an officer who is more efficient, more energetic and who knows his business better than the present Secretary to the Diwan. Both in the Council and outside he has impressed us as perhaps the most efficient member on the other side of the House. We have never been tired of talking between ourselves on the admissable way in which he has been acquitting himself in the Council. Certain charges were levelled against him also. I am very sorry that such sweeping remarks have been made. At the same time I am very happy that he has succeeded in completely vindicating his position to the entire satisfaction of this House. More than that it is not for me to say.

Now about the poor Panchayat Department. The Hon'ble Member for Trichur has been trying to damn it 'with faint praise'; describing the emergent works executed by the Department as ranging from rock-blasting to the exportation of monkeys. The member may note that even the exportation of

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monkeys may at times become a very urgent matter. In the Sacred Heart's Convent at Trichur, the other day monkeys raided the premises and bit some of the school children. There was great hubub and confusion. So occasionally even the exportation of monkeys may become a very urgent matter. For the rest, it has been sufficiently testified by Hon'ble Members on the floor of this House that the department is working very efficiently. I have got only one complaint against the Head of the Department. In his appointments I find that he has not been giving due regard to the communal claims of the poorly represented communities of the State. The answer to a question put at this very session, shows that while he has appointed 20 Nayars and 6 Brahmins he has appointed only 15 Christians.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Is it a heinous crime?

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Yes. It is directly against the express wishes of this Council and against the explicit injunctions given by the Government. There is the strict injunction by the Government that in the matter of appointments proper regard must be given to the claims of all communities, even to the extent of rectifying the existing inequality in the service balance. But the Head of the Panchayat Department has been trying to intensify the inequality in favour of the communities already enjoying a preponderance in the services. In this matter therefore I have got a very serious charge against him.

I do not want to make any more remarks on various departments. I would only add a word more on the question of the boldness that is required of the Government in regard to our Development schemes. There are the complaints of grievances, coming from the agriculturists. There are the complaints of grievances, coming from the industrialists and also from the various classes of traders. I am fully convinced that if the Government want to do anything substantial towards redressing these grievances, they must go in for more loans. Let us not be afraid of a large national debt. It will be a paying concern and more than that it will have a two-fold salutary effect on the finances of the country. Not only will it bring the much needed relief to the suffering sections of the people, but will also provide profitable investment to the large funds now locked up in our banks. It is because they cannot find borrowers backed up with sufficient security that much money is lying idle in these banks. The Government can get the money at low rates of interest. Thus the present period of depression will be the best time for the Government to raise money from our indigenous banks and other private sources and to make it productive by investing it in remunerative projects. If they adopt this policy I am sure

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they will be in a position to do much for the present and future generations alike and thus ensure well-being contentment and happiness all round.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Sir, This is the 10th Budget which I am privileged to discuss. As I have already said enough and more with practically very little effect I do not propose to repeat what I have already said in the past. But I feel bound to refer to one or two outstanding points which can never be ignored. An Hon'ble Member wanted an independent Finance Member, but we would be satisfied if he is at least made permanent. He has presented the Budget for the last 3 years to the satisfaction of the Government and of the Hon'ble Members of this House. It is regretable that he is not confirmed yet.

I am one of the most loyal subjects of His Highness the Maharaja and I do believe in accordance with our faith that His Highness is the physical representative of the Almighty God and I therefore do worship Him and adore Him. But I strongly protest against any influence whatsoever that is likely to prejudice the good name of the Ruling Sovereign. At the same time I am one of those who do not respect the courtesans and parasites who may wittingly or unwittingly mar the good name of the Ruler.

President.—I may point out that it is not usual in discussion in an assembly like this to bring the name of the Ruler into it. The Ruler is outside the orbit of the discussions. It is not desirable to bring His name into it, except simply to express loyalty. It is not in accordance with the correct ideas of discussion in an assembly of this kind and therefore I request the Hon'ble Member to avoid doing so.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—This is a critical time in the affairs of the State. There are ever so many parties at work and the ship of the State has to be safely handled amidst this storm. The present palace party, the old regime party, the party that has been existing from the past regime, the Diwan's party, the party that sits on the fence and the people's party which is mainly concerned with the interests of the State apart from all cliques. Nobody can object to the existence of various parties. But the sad experience has been that owing to the selfish games played by these parties, the real party, i. e., the people's party, of which I happen to be a member, suffers much. Hence the reference to the state of affairs. In my 8th Budget speech I was compelled to refer to the then state of affair and I felt that at that rate the result would be disastrous. I fervently hope and pray that that sad prophecy may not come true. I make a repeated reference to that fact now in the hope that

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sufficient precaution will be taken to guard against such a contingency, for it is never too late to mend.

A word about the Capital expenditure. In regard to expenditure on Railway and receipts therefrom, we have hitherto depended entirely on the accounts of our Agents. The figures of expenditure and income from Railway make a very interesting, instructive and perhaps amusing study. It may not be quite clear to the casual looker on how the expenditure on railways have kept pace in the race with the receipts so as always to keep a steady margin. I wonder who for Cochin has scrutinised the over increasing expenditure on railways. Let the past be past. Our investment on railway is now nearly three times of what it was at the beginning and we have to regard it as a source of a considerable portion of our revenues. A specially qualified officer or a special department created to scrutinise and check the accounts will more than repay the amounts spent thereon. That will also be a preliminary training for the eventual direct administration of the Railway by the Government as in other States. At present our representations on the management and on the Board is very poor. The ex-officio Member, the Diwan, is seldom seen to attend the meeting of the Board and with the growing duties of the office the Diwan cannot be expected to find time for this part of his work. It would therefore be better if other arrangements are made for representing Cochin in the Railway Board.

I am always an optimist and hope is a fountain I ever drink from. I am not despondent about the future of Cochin. Nothing is permanent and even the adverse influences now standing in the way of good administration will end. Shakespeare has said "Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them". So are positions in Cochin and it is for the Government to see that its administration does not suffer on account of the fact of its having put persons in position where they ought not to be or by having persons where they are not by merit but by something else.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ.— സർ, കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിലെ ഹാർബർകായ്ത്തിൽ ഒരു കൊച്ചീക്കാരന്റെ നിലയിൽ കൊച്ചിയുടെ അവകാശത്തിനുവേണ്ടി എത്ര ശക്തിയായി വാദിക്കാമോ അത്രയും ശക്തിയായിട്ടുവാൻജ്ഞാവാദിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നറിയുന്നതിൽ ഈ രാജ്ഞാക്കാക്ക് അദ്ദേഹത്തോടുള്ള കൃതജ്ഞതയെ ഞാൻ ആദ്യമായി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിലുള്ള ഗവർമ്മെൻറ് ഈ ഹാർബർ കായ്ത്തിൽ എത്രതന്നെ യുദ്ധംചെയ്താലും അവസാനം ഗവർമ്മെൻറിനു തടയുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്ത വിഷമങ്ങളും വന്നേക്കുമെന്നുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതിനുമുമ്പു ചിലമെമ്പർമാർ

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പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന് ജനങ്ങളുടെ പിൻതാങ്ങലുണ്ടെന്നുവരുത്തിവയ്ക്കേണ്ടതു് ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റെ ഒരു വലിയ ചുമതലയാണു്. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ എടുക്കാവുന്നതു ശക്തിയായ നിലപാടെടുപ്പാൻ ഗവമ്മെൻറിനു സാധിക്കയില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെ വാദത്തെ ഗവമ്മെൻറിന്റെ വാദത്തെപ്പോലെതന്നെ ഇന്ത്യാഗവമ്മെൻറ് അനാദരിക്കുവാൻ ധൈര്യപ്പെടുകയില്ല. ഹാർബർകാര്യത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കുവാനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ നിയമസഭയ്ക്കു് കൊടുക്കണം. അതെങ്കിലും ഈ ഗവമ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യണം. ആ കാര്യത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും അമാന്തം വരുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലേയ്ക്കോ ദിവാൻജിക്കോ ഒന്നും പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കാത്തവിധത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ ഹാർബർ അന്യർ കൊണ്ടുപോയിക്കളയുമെന്നുള്ളതു് ഇപ്പോഴേ നാം ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. അതോടുകൂടി എനിക്കു പറവാനുള്ളതു് ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുന്ന പല വിഷമങ്ങളും തീർക്കുന്നതിനു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ഇനി തീരെ മടി കാണിക്കരുതെന്നാണു്. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഉടനെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ വളരെ വിഷമമുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പലരും പറയുന്നുണ്ടു്. മഹാത്മാഗാന്ധി പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെ തെറ്റാനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യവും ഓരോ രാജ്യത്തിനും ആവശ്യമാണു്. അവരവരുടെ രാജ്യം ഭരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുമ്പോൾ അവരവർക്കു ചില തെറ്റുകൾ പറ്റിയേക്കും. അപ്രകാരം കുറെ തെറ്റും പിഴകളും വരുത്തുവാനുള്ള അധികാരം ഈ കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. തെറ്റുമെന്നുള്ള കാരണം പറഞ്ഞു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തു ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നകാര്യത്തിൽ ഇനി ഒരിക്കലും ഗവമ്മെൻറു താമസിക്കുന്നതു ന്യായമായിരിക്കയില്ല. ഇന്നു് ഇൻഡ്യാരാജ്യത്തുള്ള നാട്ടുരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഏതെങ്കിലും രാജ്യത്തിലെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു് ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാനുള്ള പാകതയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു ഈ കൊച്ചിക്കാക്കാണെന്നുള്ള വാദത്തെ ആർക്കും നിഷേധിക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ല. കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തെ ജനങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ ഇതിനു പ്രാപ്തരായവർ ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ വേറെ ഒരു ഭാഗത്തുമില്ല. എന്നാൽ വടക്കെ ഇൻഡ്യയിലെപ്പോലുള്ള വലിയ രാജ്യതന്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാരെ ഇവിടെ കാണുന്നില്ലെല്ലോ എന്നാരെങ്കിലും പറയുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അതു കൊച്ചിക്കാർക്കു് അതിനുള്ള അവസരം കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണു്. ഉത്തരവാദിത്വഭരണം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ഏല്ക്കുന്ന പഴികൾ എല്ലാം ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ അവരുടെ തോളിൽ താങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളും.

ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ തല്ക്കാലം അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയങ്ങൾക്കു വല്ല തീരുമാനവും ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ? ഈ കാ

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യ്ത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറ്തീരെ പരാജയപ്പെട്ടുപോയിരിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിലയിൽ വളരെ നിരാശാജനകമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറാണ് ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മുടെ മുമ്പിൽ ഇരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു്. അതിനു ഫൈനാൻസ് മെമ്പർ ഒരിക്കലും ഉത്തരവാദിയല്ല. നമ്മെ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒന്നാമതായി അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന പ്രമേയം കഷ്ടകന്മാരെ അവരുടെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകളിൽനിന്നു രക്ഷിയ്ക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. അതിലേയ്ക്കായി ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവമ്മെൻറു ചെയ്തിരിയ്ക്കുന്നതു് ലാൻറുടാക്സ് റമിറു ചെയ്യുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഇതു് എത്രയോ വലുതായ ഒരു അബദ്ധം മാത്രമാണു്. ആക്കും ഒരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ലാതെ കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലം കുറെ പണം ഗവമ്മെൻറു് ഈ കായ്ത്തിൽ ഇളവു ചെയ്തു. ഇപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു് കരം കൊടുക്കുന്ന കായ്ത്തിലാണോ? കരം കൊടുക്കാൻപോലും. സാധിക്കാത്ത വിഷമതകൾ അവക്കു വന്നിരിയ്ക്കുമ്പോൾ കരം ഇളച്ചുതുകൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു തീരുമോ? റവന്യൂഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽനിന്നും കരം കൊടുക്കാത്ത ആളുകളുടെ വസ്തുക്കൾ വില്ക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു് അവർ കടത്തിൽ മുങ്ങിയതുകൊണ്ടാണു്; കരം കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുകൊണ്ടല്ല. അങ്ങിനെ കടത്തിൽ മുങ്ങിയിരിയ്ക്കുന്നവരെ അതിൽ നിന്നും രക്ഷിയ്ക്കുകയാണു വേണ്ടതു്. കടമുള്ള ഒരുവൻറെ പലിശ കുറച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതും ഈ നിസ്സാരമായ കരമിളവും തമ്മിൽ താരതമ്യപ്പെടുത്തിനോക്കുക. കരമിളവു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ കണ്ണിൽ മണ്ണിടുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുള്ള ഒരു വിദ്യ മാത്രമാണു്. ഒരിയ്ക്കലും ലാൻറുടാക്സ് റമിറു ചെയ്യേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഈ റമിഷൻകൊണ്ടോ, കരം മുഴുവൻ ഇളവു ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടോ പ്രയോജനമൊന്നുമില്ലാത്ത തരത്തിൽ കഷ്ടകന്മാർ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നു. ആ കായ്ത്തിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരു രക്ഷ അവക്കു ചെയ്യാതെ കരമിളവുകൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ കണ്ണിൽ പൊടിയിടുന്നതുപോലെ അബദ്ധം മറെറാന്നുമില്ല. കരമിളവിനു വേണ്ടി വാദിക്കല്ലേ എന്നാണു് എനിക്കു അനുഭാഗസ്ഥപക്ഷത്തോടു അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്. നാട്ടുകാർക്കു് കടത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷ കിട്ടുവാൻ വേണ്ടി കടത്തിനു് ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ നിർബ്ബന്ധിയ്ക്കുകയാണു് വേണ്ടതു്. ഈ നാട്ടിലെ സാമാനങ്ങളുടെ വിലക്കുറവു പരിഹരിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടിയുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിൽകൂടി പ്രവൃത്തിയ്ക്കുവാനും ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ നിർബ്ബന്ധിയ്ക്കുണം.

ഗവമ്മെൻറിനെ അഭിമുഖീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വേറൊരു പ്രധാന സംഗതിയാണു് സർവ്വീസിലെ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യകായ്മ. സർവ്വീസിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഓരോ സമുദായക്കാരും അവരവരുടെ താല്പര്യമാണു പറയുന്നതു്. അവരവരുടെ ആളുകൾക്കുദ്യോഗം കിട്ടണമെന്നു് അവരവർ പറയുന്നു. ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾ ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾക്കു കിട്ടണമെന്നു താല്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു; ഈഴവർ ഈഴ

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വക്കു കിട്ടണമെന്നു താല്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു; നായന്മാർ നായന്മാക്കു കിട്ടണമെന്നു താല്പര്യപ്പെടുന്നു. എല്ലാ സമുദായക്കാരും അവരവരുടെ താല്പര്യങ്ങൾക്കു വാദിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിൽ ഏതു സമുദായക്കാർ പറയുന്ന താല്പര്യമാണ് ന്യായവും ശരിയും, സ്വീകരിയ്ക്കേണ്ടതുമെന്നാണ് ഗവൺമെൻറ് നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. അവരവരുടെ താല്പര്യങ്ങൾ പറയുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ മുഴുവനും വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിയ്ക്കുന്ന സമുദായക്കാർ കുറക്കാരല്ല. ചരിത്രസംബന്ധമായ കാരണങ്ങൾകൊണ്ടു അങ്ങിനെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു സമുദായക്കാക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗമുണ്ടെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചു് അവർ കുറക്കാരാണെന്നോ, മീത്തയാണെന്നോ, അവർ മറു ജനങ്ങളോടു് വിരോധികളാണെന്നോ ഉള്ള തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണ മറുള്ള സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കില്ല. ചില കാരണവശാൽ ചില സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു് അധികം ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങൾ കിട്ടി; ചില കാരണവശാൽ ചില സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കു ഉദ്യോഗം കിട്ടാതെവന്നു. ഇങ്ങിനെതന്നെ ഈ സ്ഥിതി നിലനിറുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകരുതെന്നേ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. എഫിഷ്യൻസിയ്ക്കു കുറവു വരാതെ മറു സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കും പ്രാതിനിധ്യം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. മൈസൂരിലും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലും സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യമം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു എന്നു ഒരു മെമ്പർ ഇവിടെ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ Ignorance is bliss എന്ന വാക്യമാണു് ഉദ്ധരിക്കുവാൻ തോന്നുന്നതു്. മൈസൂരിൽ ജീവനക്കാരിൽ ഒരു പിന്നോക്കംനില്ലാത്ത സമുദായങ്ങൾക്കായിനീക്കിവെച്ചിരിക്കയാണു്. സർവ്വീസ് കമ്മീഷൻ വേണമെന്നു അവിടെ വാദം വന്നപ്പോൾ സെൻട്രൽ റിക്രൂട്ടിങ്ങ് ബോർഡു ഉള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു കമ്മീഷൻ വേണ്ട എന്നേ ഗവൺമെൻറു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ഇതിനെ പിടിച്ചാണു് ആ മെമ്പർ മൈസൂരിൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യമം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു എന്നു പറയുന്നതു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം എങ്ങിനെ വേണമെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കാൻ ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ നിയമിച്ചു. ആ കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവൺമെൻറു് ആലോചിച്ചുവരികയാണു്. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം ഉപേക്ഷിച്ചു എന്നു പറയുന്നതും എന്തൊരു അബദ്ധമാണു്. ഒരു ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇന്ത്യൻ സാമ്രാജ്യത്തിനു് അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നതെങ്ങിനെയെന്നു് ആ മെമ്പർ ചോദിക്കയുണ്ടായി. സർവ്വീസിലെ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം സംബന്ധിച്ചു് ഇന്ത്യാഗവൺമെൻറു് ഈയിടെ പ്രസിദ്ധം ചെയ്ത നിശ്ചയം ആ മെമ്പർ കണ്ടിരിക്കയില്ല. ആ മെമ്പർ പത്രങ്ങൾ വായിക്കുന്നില്ലായിരിക്കണം. (ചിരി)

ജാതിവ്യത്യാസവും ജാതിവ്യത്യാസത്തെ താങ്ങുന്ന മതവിശ്വാസം ഉറച്ചുനില്ക്കുന്ന ഇന്ത്യയിൽ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം പാ

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ടില്ലെന്നു പറയുന്നതു രോഗത്തിനു ചികിത്സ പാടില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള കഠിനതയാണ്. സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യവാദികൾ സമുദായവ്യത്യാസം നിലനിറുത്തണമെന്നു വാദക്കാരല്ല. സമുദായങ്ങളെല്ലാം ഒന്നാകണമെന്നാണ് അവർ പറയുന്നതു്. നേരെമറിച്ചു സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യവിരോധികൾ സമുദായവ്യത്യാസങ്ങൾ തൈവികമായ ഏർപ്പാടാണെന്നു വാദിക്കുന്നവരാണ്. അവർ സമുദായപ്രാതിനിധ്യം പാടില്ല എന്നു പറയുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ പ്രയാസമായിരിക്കുന്നു.

മേൽപറഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചും എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യുവാൻ ഗവൺമെന്റിനു് ഇതേവരെ സാധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. ഈ രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങളും ഇങ്ങിനെ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ടതല്ല. ഈ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവൃത്തിക്കുവാൻ ഗവൺമെന്റ് എടുക്കുന്ന കാലതാമസം ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഇതിനേക്കാളെത്രയോ വലിയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഓരോ ഗവൺമെന്റുകൾ ഇതിലും എത്ര എളുപ്പത്തിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ രണ്ടു കാര്യങ്ങളും ഗവൺമെന്റു നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു രാജ്യത്തു പല സംശയങ്ങളും പരന്നിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എവിടെനിന്നാണ് ഈ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കു പ്രതിബന്ധം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതു് എന്നു ജനങ്ങൾ സ്വയം ചോദിച്ചുതുടങ്ങുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥിതി ഒരിക്കലും ആശാസ്യമായിരിക്കയില്ല.

അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ എനിയ്ക്കു ദിവാൻജിയവർകളോടു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു് ജനങ്ങളുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങൾ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനെ അറിയിച്ചു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ഇനി ഒട്ടും താമസിപ്പിക്കുകൂടാ എന്നാണ്. ഒരുപ്രകാരത്തിലും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു സങ്കടപരിഹാരം വരുത്തുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ താമസിപ്പിക്കുകൂടാ എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ദിവാൻജിയവർകളും, മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സുകൊണ്ടും ഓർക്കണമെന്നു് തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഭക്തിയുള്ള പ്രജകൾ ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽ പറയുന്നതു ദിവാൻജി മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിനെഅറിയിയ്ക്കണമെന്നപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നു. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഞാൻ എന്റെ കാൺസ്റ്റിറ്റ്വെൻസിയുടെ പേരിൽ അപേക്ഷിയ്ക്കുന്നു. ഈ അപേക്ഷതന്നെ ഞാൻ ഈ രാജ്യത്തെ മുഴുവൻ പ്രജകളുടേയും പേരിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇനി ഗവൺമെന്റു അമാന്തിയ്ക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു് ഒരു അനാശാസ്യമായിരിക്കും. ഇതുകൊണ്ടു് കലാപം വരുമെന്നൊ, മറ്റൊ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിൽ വെറുതെ അന്യഥാ തെറ്റിധാരണകൾക്കിടയുണ്ടാകും. അതിനു ഗവൺമെന്റു് എന്തിനിടവരുത്തുന്നു? പരമാർത്ഥസ്ഥിതി ഇന്നവിധമാണെന്നു തിരുമനസ്സിനോടു പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ തീർച്ചയായും അദ്ദേഹം അതിനു പരിഹാരം ചെയ്യാതിരിയ്ക്കയില്ല. ഇനി ഒരു സംഗതി പറയാനുള്ളതു് ഗവൺമെന്റ് കാൺസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂഷണൽ റിഫാംസ് ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ജാഗ്രത

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കാണിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. പ്രാഞ്ചിസ് വിസ്താരപ്പെട്ടത്തന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് കാണിച്ച ലുബ്ധ് ഒട്ടും ക്ഷന്തവ്യമല്ല. പ്രായപൂർത്തിയുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കും അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അക്ഷരജ്ഞാനമുള്ള എല്ലാവർക്കുമെങ്കിലും വോട്ടവകാശം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ടാക്സ് കോളക്ഷിക്കേഷൻ പ്രകാരമുള്ള ഏലക്ടറേറ്റ്. ഇപ്പോഴും ഇവിടെ കിട്ടാവുന്നതിൽ വെച്ചു ഏറ്റവും നല്ലതെന്നു പറയുവാൻ തരമില്ല. നാകൃതിഅടവ്മിക്കവാറും ഓരോ വീട്ടിലേയും കാരണവന്മാരുടെ പേരിലായിരിക്കും. വീട്ടിലേക്കു വെച്ചു പ്രായേണ ഏറ്റവും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം കുഞ്ഞവർ അവരായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ വോട്ടർമാരിൽ അധികംപേർ വോട്ട് വിവേകപൂർവം ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ അറിവില്ലാത്തവരായിട്ടുണ്ട്. നിരക്ഷരരായ വോട്ടർമാരും ഇപ്പോൾ വളരെ കുണ്ടക്കും. ഇതിനെല്ലാം പരിഹാരം പ്രായപൂർത്തിവോട്ട് നടപ്പാക്കുകയാണ്.

പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടി ജനങ്ങൾ മുറവിളി കൂട്ടുന്നതിനെ ഗവമ്മെൻറ് അധികകാലം അലക്ഷ്യമാക്കരുതെന്ന് എനിക്കു പറയാനുണ്ട്. ആവശ്യമായ പരിഷ്കാരം തടഞ്ഞുവെക്കുന്നതു ഏതു രാജ്യത്തും സാധാരണമായിട്ടാണ് കണ്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇവിടെയും അതു അങ്ങനെതന്നെ വരാനെ തരമുള്ളൂ. ഇതു അറിയേണ്ടവരെല്ലാം അറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mrs. Swaris.—Sir, the last word is always the woman's and therefore I shall end the discussion. I have not minutely studied the heavy budget. I thought I would do so in the course of the discussion of the Hon'ble Members here and arrive at some conclusion towards the close. I only went through the Finance Member's report and I found a great progress in the arrangement of facts and figures. He says he carried out all the suggestions of the Finance Committee and has regarded and respected the grey hairs of his predecessors and used all his wit and wisdom in its preparation. I felt myself travelling in an aeroplane when I was going through it and when I came to the concluding part I met with some golden castles he was building in the air. Harbour and Railway, customs and income-tax and all these constructive welfare schemes are going to bring us a bumper crop. Everything is in the womb of the future and left to be seen. In the words of the Prime Minister of England, he asks us to "wait and see". To have imagination and patience. He is feeding us with hope. Let us hope for the best and be prepared for the worst. Because we cannot depend upon short men. My husband always says "do not trust short men" and the Finance Member is the shortest in the House. He has used all his Brahmin cunning. We must set a thief to catch a thief. The Hon'ble Member for Nellayi is the only Brahmin Member

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on our side. He is the best detective and with his recent qualification of the Tiger-test he will be the best man to catch the forest animals. There is something radically wrong I think, in the Forest Department or something rotten in Parambikulam for so many supplementary bills have been brought in. I hope the Hon'ble Members will ferret out the facts and thresh out the figures before arriving at conclusions. Last year everything appeared a muddle and a chaos to me. This year it appears to me a wheel within a wheel and controlling and that is why he is called the Comptroller. That must be some trick of the trade. I cannot say anything more without due deliberation for which I had no time. Let us hope for the best as I said before. I wish every success to our Hon'ble Government and everything may go on smoothly as the Finance Member expects it to be.

The House rose for the day at 4-50p. m.

C. J. MATHEW,
Secretary to the Council.

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